

Daniel Chapter 6 – 10 Mar 2013

**Do you believe that God wants a relationship with you day by day?
Do you believe that your Heavenly Father is seeking for you to live
in a GREAT relationship with Him in spite of your flaws?**

The Cherry Tree - When George Washington was about six years old, he was made the wealthy master of a hatchet of which, like most little boys, he was extremely fond. He went about chopping everything that came his way.

One day, as he wandered about the garden amusing himself by hacking his mother's pea- sticks, he found a beautiful, young English cherry tree, of which his father was most proud. He tried the edge of his hatchet on the trunk of [the tree](#) and barked it so that it died.

Some time after this, his father discovered what had happened to his favorite tree. He came into the house in great anger, and demanded to know who the mischievous person was who had cut away the bark. Nobody could tell him anything about it.

Just then George, with his little hatchet, came into [the room](#).

"George," said his father, "do you know who has killed my beautiful little cherry tree yonder in the garden? I would not have taken five guineas for it!"

This was a hard question to answer, and for a moment George was staggered by it, but quickly recovering himself he cried: --

"I cannot tell a lie, father, you know I cannot tell a lie! I did cut it with my little hatchet."

The anger died out of his father's face, and taking the boy tenderly in his arms, he said: --

"My son, that you should not be afraid to tell the truth is more to me than a thousand trees! yes, though they were blossomed with silver and had leaves of the purest gold!"

Today, God can empower us with these 5 characteristics that will enable us to live in a GREAT relationship with Him “in spite” of our sinful flesh.

1. Vs 1-3

- a. Babylonian Kingdom has come to a close
- b. The Babylonian captivity of the Jews is coming to a close
 - i. This was from 605BC – 536BC, and during this time:
 - 1. Buddha in India 563BC prospers
 - 2. Confucius in China 551 BC prospers
 - ii. Interesting that Satan turned his attention away from the Jews for a period of time.
- c. Notice 120 princes and 3 presidents
 - i. 12 is consistently the number of government
 - ii. 3 is consistently the number of divinity
 - iii. So we already begin to see pictures of a divine government that God will establish in the end days.
 - iv. We'll speak more of this later.
- d. **The 1st characteristic that God wants to work into us is simply... His spirit.**
 - i. Daniel was known for and rewarded for having an excellent spirit within.
 - ii. It's impossible to have any fellowship with God apart from His spirit within us.

2. Vs 4

a. **The 2nd characteristic that God wants to work into us to have a GREAT relationship with Him is integrity.**

i. Honesty, faithfulness and not using his power to take a financial benefit.

ii. READ Phil 2:12-16 & II Pet 3:10-14

1. This honest lifestyle points people to Christ and will enable us to “rejoice in the day of Christ”.

iii. Can the world find things in our lives that we’re not being honest about?

1. Do we call in sick, when we’re not sick?

2. Do we complete the job...that we said we completed?

iv. Let God empower us with His spirit’s integrity and then yield to Him in the next situation that we find that we’re in. Agreed?

b. Some people around you will always have a problem with you.

i. Some people will damn you if you do, and others will damn you if you don’t.

ii. We will always provoke somebody!

iii. Let it be our integrity that provokes others, not the lack thereof.

1. Our integrity will provoke evil-doers to envy as in this case.

- a. Prov 27:4 – Wrath is cruel and anger outrageous, but who can stand before...envy.”
- 2. Our integrity will provoke carnal Christian (or those that know better) to jealousy in order to win them over.
 - a. Read Roms 11:11-14
- 3. Our integrity will ALSO provoke solid Christians to praise God all the more.
 - a. Matt 5:16 – “Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and praise your Father in Heaven.”

3. Vs 5

- a. **The 3rd characteristic that God wants to work into us to have a GREAT relationship with Him is to be a person of priorities.**
 - i. “We can’t trip him up with the flawless way he’s running the province, so let’s make his priorities conflict. Let’s find something in his Christianity that conflicts with his job”
 - ii. If you’re trying to obtain ___A___ and trying to obtain ___B___ and they conflict, which do you do?
 - 1. A = a luxury boat, B = time for family devotions
 - 2. A = a growing business, B = honesty
 - 3. A = some TV time, B = a covenant with your eyes not to lust

4. A = money to pay your rent, B = money to pay your
tithe

iii. Let God empower us to change priorities next time
we're faced with a change that needs to happen.

4. Vs 6-9

a. The law of the Medo-Persian that changes not.

i. Take a look at our timeline.

ii. The New Heaven and New Earth will last forever.

iii. This is pictured here by the law that doesn't change.

iv. Read Ezra 6:11-13 & Esther 1:19, 8:8

v. In fact, the only way to change a law was to try writing a
new one that would add to the old law.

5. Vs 10-11

a. **The 4th characteristic that God wants to work into us to
have a GREAT relationship with Him is to have an even
consistent spiritual life.**

i. Do you have family devotions but only b/c they fit into
your schedule right now?

ii. Do you tithe but only b/c it fits into the budget right
now?

iii. Do you talk to people outside of this church about the
Lord but only b/c it fits your schedule right now?

b. Our spiritual life should have a consistency to it regardless of
our life situation!

i. If it is right to have family devotions, then it should
always be right to have family devotions!

- ii. If it is right to tithe, then it should always be right to tithe!
- iii. If it is right to engage people about the Lord, then it should always be right!
- c. Tell Winston Churchill story about fornication and negotiating the price.
 - i. Would you change your spiritual actions depending on the price?
 - ii. Would you really become less of a Christian if it would benefit you in an earthly way? God forbid!

6. Vs 12-18

- a. Vs 13 – “regardeth not thee O king” – they’re playing on the king’s pride. This is Satan’s constant trick.
 - i. Too much pride for most, and way too little pride for some.
- b. Vs 16 – “Your God will deliver you”
 - i. Fascinating to me that the king was really routing for Daniel.
 - ii. The character of Daniel did even more that give him a great relationship with God, but also with some powerful people too!

7. Vs 19-23

- a. **The 5th characteristic that God wants to work into us to have a GREAT relationship with Him is trust.**
 - i. Yes you believe that Jesus died on the cross to forgive your sins, but when was the last time you remember

changing your mind about something you believed to line up even further with God's Word?

- ii. Some Christians later grew into Creationism.
- iii. Some Christians later grew out of the Catholic Church.
- iv. What beliefs have you grown into?

8. Vs 24-28

- a. Vs 26 – “His dominion shall be even unto the end.” – Their laws were unchanging, but they knew that God's kingdom and purposes were unchanging!
- b. All of this character that God is building in us is for one great big purpose....to bring Him glory.
- c. When the other people were eaten by the lions this proved God's miraculous deliverance of Daniel!
- d. Our great relationship with God is simple all about bringing the Lord Glory and making Him look good...He deserves it!

9. Conclusion

- a. **God wants to empower us with these 5 characteristics that will enable us to live in a GREAT relationship with Him.**
 - i. His **Spirit**
 - ii. **Integrity**
 - iii. **Prioritizing** God first in our lives
 - iv. **Evenness** in our spiritual lives
 - v. **Trusting** Him more in new ways every day
- b. How can you remember these 5 things? It's in 'SPITE' of yourself!
 - i. **Spirit, Priorities, Integrity, Trust, Evenness**