



DANIEL 6

So the king gave the command, and they brought Daniel and cast him into the den of lions. But the king spoke, saying to Daniel, "Your God, whom you serve continually, He will deliver you." - Daniel 6:16.

Daniel Chapter 6 is probably one of the most famous Sunday school stories. It's a story of courage in the face of opposition. It is noncompliance at its finest, but does this mean we ought to live our lives in defiance of the world? As we dig deeper into the story today, let's analyze the nature of Daniel's courageous 'defiance'. He was humble, a great worker, vehemently disliked by other government leaders, but his results and work ethic told the real story. He had an excellent spirit in him that made him stand out above the rest of his peers. One could say he was set apart as in 'Holy'. Since the spirit in him was Holy. Verse 10 describes the defiant prayer as his custom, or what we will call his habits of righteousness. Another key point to tune into was that his behavior here was normal. He wasn't flippantly cursing the king and making a big show for everyone to see as he prayed to his God. He simply went about his business as usual.

All though he was technically a prisoner of war, Daniel served his captors well, and became a model citizen, even earning the friendship of the pagan king Darius. As Jesus commanded, **"Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."** (MK 12:17) God has appointed this government over us for His purpose and glory. We recognize God's Sovereignty when we strive to be a good citizen, until being a good citizen makes you a bad Christian. Our Testimony depends on it!

Read Daniel 6 together. What stands out most to you about Daniel's courage?

Discussion Questions

1. No fault was found in Daniel for his work or character. Would people in your workplace or school find fault in your character?
2. Righteous living invites opposition. How have you come under scrutiny while doing the right thing when nobody else was? How do you grow through opposition?
3. Daniel received great respect from the king due to his faithful service. How does Daniel live out Colossians 3:23-24? Do you think this had an impact on the King's decree in verses 24-28? Would Darius have honored God if Daniel was not a good worker?
4. Darius lets himself be manipulated because of his pride. How has your pride caused you to make poor decisions? Have you ever been manipulated in flattery?
5. Daniel was known for his 'Habits of Righteousness'. What habits of righteousness do you want to be known for? How will you cultivate those patterns and that kind of faith?