

## EXCELLENCE AT WORK

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*Then this Daniel became distinguished above all the other high officials and satraps, because an **excellent spirit was in him**. And the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom.*

### Daniel 6:3 (ESV)

#### The Characters:

King Darius  
Daniel  
Co-Workers  
Lions  
God

#### Scene One:

Climbing the Corporate Ladder

*<sup>1</sup>It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom **120 satraps**, to be throughout the whole kingdom; <sup>2</sup> and over them three high officials, of whom Daniel was one, to whom these satraps should give account, so that the king might suffer no loss.*

*<sup>3</sup> Then this Daniel became distinguished above all the other high officials and satraps, because an **excellent spirit was in him**. And the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. **Daniel 6:1-3 (ESV)***

#### Scene Two:

Conniving Co-Workers

*<sup>4</sup> Then the high officials and the satraps **sought to find a ground for complaint against Daniel** with regard to the kingdom, but they could find no ground for complaint or any fault, because he was faithful, and no error or fault was found in him.*

*<sup>5</sup> Then these men said, "We shall not find any ground for complaint against this Daniel unless we find it in connection **with the law of his God**."*

**Daniel 6:4-5 (ESV)**

### Scene Three:

If Worshipping God Is Wrong, I Don't Want To Be Right!

*<sup>10</sup> When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open toward Jerusalem. He got down on his knees three times a day and **prayed and gave thanks before his God**, as he had done previously.*

*<sup>11</sup> Then these men came by agreement and **found Daniel making petition and plea before his God**. <sup>12</sup> Then they came near and said before the king, concerning the injunction, "O king! Did you not sign an injunction, that anyone who makes petition to any god or man within thirty days except to you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions?" The king answered and said, "The thing stands fast, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be revoked."*

*<sup>13</sup> Then they answered and said before the king, "Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or the injunction you have signed, but makes his petition three times a day." **Daniel 6:10-13 (ESV)***

### Scene Four:

Daniel For Dinner?

*<sup>19</sup> Then, at break of day, the king arose and went in haste to the den of lions. <sup>20</sup> As he came near to the den where Daniel was, he cried out in a tone of anguish. The king declared to Daniel, "O Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?"*

*<sup>21</sup> Then Daniel said to the king, "O king, live forever! <sup>22</sup> **My God sent his angel and shut the lions' mouths**, and they have not harmed me, because I was found blameless before him; and also before you, O king, I have done no harm."*

*<sup>23</sup> Then the king was exceedingly glad, and commanded that Daniel be taken up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and **no kind of harm was found on him, because he had trusted in his God**.*

*<sup>24</sup> And the king commanded, and those men who had maliciously accused Daniel were brought and cast into the den of lions—they, their children, and their wives. And before they reached the bottom of the den, the lions overpowered them and broke all their bones in pieces. **Daniel 6:19-24 (ESV)***

## To Cultivating a Spirit of Excellence in Your Work, You Need...

### 1. SKILL + INTEGRITY + FAITHFULNESS

Then the high officials and the satraps sought to find a ground for complaint against Daniel with regard to the kingdom, but *they could find no ground for complaint or any fault, because he was faithful, and no error or fault was found in him.* **Daniel 6:4 (ESV)**

So he shepherded them according to the *integrity of his heart*, and guided them by the *skillfulness of his hands.* **Psalms 78:72 (NKJV)**

### 2. PRAYER

When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber *open toward Jerusalem.* He got down on his knees three times a day and *prayed* and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously. **Daniel 6:10 (ESV)**

*"I have so much to do today. I think I'll spend another hour on my knees."*  
**The Great Reformer Martin Luther**

### 3. COURAGE

He got down on his knees three times a day and *prayed* and gave thanks before his God, *as he had done previously.* **Daniel 6:10b (ESV)**

### 4. RESPECT

Then Daniel said to the king, *"O king, live forever!"* **Daniel 6:21 (ESV)**

And if you have not been faithful in what is *another man's*, who will give you *what is your own?* **Luke 16:12 (NKJV)**