

*Daniel: Faith in the Fire*

Daniel 6.1-12

November 12, 2023

We now approach what may be the most memorable story in the Book of Daniel; however, before we get into that part of the story, we get to see Daniel engaged in the most important work of his life. What would it be like if we made this the most important work of our lives, and how would it impact us when we're in the fire? Let's get into Daniel 6, confident that you know by now that you don't have to answer every single question.

Pastor Eric

Group Sharing:

Who do you know, or have known, who was a real person of prayer? How do you know that?

See if you can piece together some of the historical changes that have taken place in the background of Daniel 6. For example, who in the world is Darius the Mede? Read Daniel 6.1-12. What are we told is the reason Daniel became distinguished from the other presidents? In what ways do you imagine Daniel was distinguished? Verse 3 refers to his "excellent spirit" or his "exceptional qualities." How might verse 4 better explain Daniel's attributes in verse 3?

What scheme do the other leaders come up with to undermine Daniel's success? Do you have an idea as to what motivated them? What exactly was the edict that Darius agreed to pronounce? Why would Daniel continue to pray so openly despite the edict? Why didn't Daniel simply pray without being so obvious about it?

Take a moment to observe the details of what he did in that upstairs room. What does the Bible say about how long Daniel had been practicing this habit? What was so important about this practice that it had become a habit? What's the connection between verses 3 & 4 and his habit described in verse 10?

"The more we train ourselves to spend time with God and him alone, the more we will discover that God is with us at all times and in all places."

Henri Nouwen

Read Mark 1.35; Luke 5.16; Luke 6.12. What's the common theme in these verses? Why would the Son of God Himself find the need to do this? Is there a connection between Jesus' practice of prayer and the way he faced the fire?

What is your own personal practice of prayer? Is it scheduled, as-needed, non-existent, constant? Can you think of ways that setting a specific time, place, and posture for prayer could be meaningful? Why else might it be important to schedule *regular* prayer? What might you do to incorporate regular prayer into your life?

"We can, through faith and grace, become like Christ by practicing the types of activities he engaged in, by arranging our whole lives around the activities he himself practiced in order to remain constantly at home in the fellowship of his Father."

Dallas Willard

*Spirit of the Disciplines*

Note 1 Thessalonians 5.17. How can scheduled times for prayer lead to praying constantly? Are there certain routines that could enhance your prayer life? Make some decisions about this, and ask God to help you put these into practice this coming week.