

FELLOWSHIP NOTES ~ March 14th, 2021



Part 3: “Lessons from the Lion’s Den”

Daniel 6

For Next Sunday:

Read and study Daniel 6:18 – 8:14 using the study notes found in the *40 Days Through Daniel* book. Don't have one? You can purchase one in Fellowship Café for a donation of \$10.

For Further Study – In Fellowship Café

Book: *“We Will Not Be Silenced”* by Erwin Lutzer

“Uncompromising” = *making no concessions; unyielding; showing an unwillingness to change one’s ways or opinions.*

Introduction

This chapter is a counterpart of chapter 3 where God preserved Daniel’s three friends. One thing that is puzzling about this chapter is the absence of these three men, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. Much like the absence of Daniel in chapter 3, there is no clear answer to this question. One possibility is that they were no longer living at this time. Daniel is now somewhere around 80 to 90 years of age when these events took place.

Section One: Daniel’s Distinction and a Diabolical Deception (Vs. 1-9)

King Darius’ Government

Administrator #1: Daniel Administrator #2 Administrator #3

40 Rulers = Satraps 40 Satraps 40 Satraps

40 Provinces or States 40 Provinces 40 Provinces

Note: The purpose of the general administrators was to protect the interests of the king.



Lesson #1. One of the best ways to influence non-Christian employers is to work _____ and _____ (6:2)

Lesson #2. Working hard and with excellence may result in _____ (6:4).

Section Two: The Decree for Daniel: Death (Vs. 10-16)

Regarding Daniel's practice of prayer: It was the custom of Jews to pray in the fashion Daniel practiced (See Psalm 55:16-17). God's people of that day were to pray facing the temple, the place where God's presence on earth was embodied. Today, no earthly place is preferred above another because the dwelling place of God is within us (See John 4:21,24; I Cor. 6:19,20).

Lesson #3. As a general rule we as Christians are to obey our government and the laws they pass. But when government and these laws violate God's laws and interferes with the Christian's worship of God, civil disobedience is both _____ and _____ (6:10; Acts 5:28-29).

Lesson #4. To stand uncompromisingly may mean _____ (6:7).

Lesson #5. The strength to live an uncompromising life comes from God through _____ (vs. 10-11).

Section Three: Daniel's Deliverance (vs. 17-23).

Lesson #6. An uncompromising life is a life of _____ and _____ in God (vs. 20, 23).

Lesson #7. Every day you are building a _____ by the way you live, and others are watching (vs. 20)!

Section Four: Darius's Declaration (Vs. 24-28)

Lesson #8. Faithfulness always results in the _____ of God.

Growth Group Study Guide

Getting Started

Group Discussion #1: Name someone that you believe is a respected Christian at your work or in your community. What qualities does this person possess that makes him or her stand out? How do you believe he or she acquired this standing?

Group Discussion #1. Suppose a group of non-Christian people (say your neighbors, or your co-workers) were sitting around a table at a restaurant and your name is brought up in the conversation. What kind of remarks or comments do you think might be made about you, your character, your lifestyle, etc.? In other words, what do you believe is your reputation in the minds of those who live near you or work with you? Why?

Digging Deeper

1. Read Daniel 6:1-9.

In this first section which we studied on Sunday morning, we learned two lessons from the life of Daniel...

Lesson #1. One of the best ways to influence non-Christian employers is to work diligently and responsibly.

How and to whom did Daniel live out these two important qualities?

Discuss your own situation where you work. Do you have a non-Christian boss? What is he or she like? How difficult is it for you to be a witness to them? How important do you believe it is to work diligently and responsibly? Give some examples of how you have tried to work like this. Have you seen your work ethic have an impact on your unsaved boss? On any unsaved co-workers?

Lesson #2. Working hard and with excellence may result in making enemies (6:4).

Do you now or have you ever had people at work or in your family oppose you because of your faith? How did you deal with it?

How do you believe living above reproach and blamelessly like Daniel is the way to handle these kinds of people?

2. Read Daniel 6:10-16.

This section teaches us three more lessons from the life of Daniel.

Lesson #3. As a general rule we as Christians are to obey our government and the laws they pass. But when government and these laws violate God's laws and interferes with the Christian's worship of God, civil disobedience is both acceptable and necessary (Acts 5:28-29).

Have you ever been in a position where you felt it was necessary for you to practice civil disobedience? What were the circumstances?

Lesson #4. To stand uncompromisingly may mean standing alone.

How difficult have you found it to stand alone on something you believed was right when no one else would?

Why do you believe it is sometimes necessary to uncompromisingly take a stand alone?

Lesson #5. The strength to live an uncompromising life comes from God through prayer.
How does Daniel's life and actions exemplify this?

What specific ways can you apply this principle in your life?

What's so challenging about this lesson?

3. Read Daniel 6:17-23.

Lesson #6. An uncompromising life is a life of faithfulness and trust in God.

Darius recognized in verse 20 that Daniel served God "continually". A good formula for summing up Daniel's life would be as follows: CONSISTENCY + TIME = Faithfulness

What do you believe are some of the benefits of being faithful to God over the course of our lives?

What will it take for each of us to reach the place in our lives like Daniel where people would say that we serve God continually?

Lesson #7. Every day you are building a reputation by the way you live, and others are watching!
How difficult have you found it to build a reputation that you believe God would approve of? Why?

4. Read Daniel 6:24-28

Lesson #8. Faithfulness always results in the blessing of God.

How was this principle true in Daniel's life?

Have you seen this principle played out in your life? How?

Read Galatians 6:7-8. How does this verse relate to this lesson?

Here's a bonus lesson from the life of Daniel: *Lesson #9. Uncompromising followers of God are used by Him to bring glory to HIS name.*

Describe how Daniel's life resulted in this lesson being fulfilled.

Can you think of other Bible characters who like Daniel found themselves in life and death situations and God used them to bring glory to His name (whether they lived or died)?

In what way(s) do you believe this last lesson might be the most important lesson of all (See 1 Corinthians 10:31)?

Wrapping Up

Other than Jesus, it's difficult to find someone in all of Scripture who symbolizes an uncompromising life like Daniel does. As you think about each of these lessons from his life which ones challenge you the most and why?