



Studies in COURAGE from the Book of Daniel
The Courage to Settle in

May 5, 2013

Daniel 6

Story about DRAMA CLASS – got to play “Eddie”

I know it likely seems like Daniel lived this wild and radical life full of adventure and miracles... are you ever tempted to look at YOUR journey in the Christian faith and call it boring?

It seems to me like all these exciting and supernatural things keep happening through Daniel... and the question is why? What made Daniel so special?

The TEXT: Daniel 6 – A familiar story, Daniel and the Lion’s Den

It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom 120 satraps, to be throughout the whole kingdom; ² 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. ³ 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. ⁴ 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. ⁵ 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.”

Summary ... So they drew up a law that they knew would get Daniel into trouble – a 30 days ban on prayer to any ‘god’ other than the king himself. How does Daniel respond?

¹⁰ 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.

Summarize: Daniel is thrown into the Lion’s Den, but God miraculously keeps him safe for the entire night!

I know this is yet another miraculous story where Daniel finds himself in extraordinary circumstances... and indeed there might be extraordinary challenges that you need to be DARED to courageously jump in to... but this morning I want to slow down and dare you to do something else... **SETTLE IN...**

1 Thessalonians 4:1,10,11 - Finally, then, brothers, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more... we urge you, brothers, to do this more and more, ¹¹ and to aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you...

THE BIG IDEA:

The way to experience extraordinary grace is through seemingly ordinary means.

- Often we get excited about doing BIG things for God, for the kingdom of God... we pray for boldness and inspiration and vision... and how many times do our SPECTACULAR plans fall apart before we see any fruit?
- I think part of the reason is because we have not learned what Daniel knew... the way to experience extraordinary grace was through very simple, seemingly ordinary means: **prayer, the word, love for God.**

The Danger:

Your MATEO can bring you to places where your character can't sustain you.

- It is possible for money, or abilities or time/energy spent (will/determination) and opportunity to elevate you into a position of influence, or a place of opportunity... but your character isn't strong enough to hold you there.
- You crush under the weight of the position because there isn't a foundation of integrity and godliness.

It is absolutely vital for believers to do the hard work of character development before they expect to be used by God in these extraordinary ways.

The "ordinary" means of grace (which Daniel devoted himself to):

a) Consistent Prayer

- Daniel did not just have a habit of praying when he needed something, or when there was a specific request... we see Daniel had a lifestyle of prayer.
- **10b: He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously.**

b) Daily Strategy

- It is important to note that Daniel not only prayed regularly, but that he had a three-times-a-day routine worked out.
- We are creatures of habit, and habits can either work against who we want to be (laziness, nutrition, exercise etc.) or it can work for us...
- **¹⁰When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open toward Jerusalem.**

How Does the Story end?

²⁵Then King Darius wrote to all the peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: "Peace be multiplied to you. ²⁶I make a decree, that in all my royal dominion people are to tremble and fear before the God of Daniel,

**for he is the living God,
enduring forever;
his kingdom shall never be destroyed,
and his dominion shall be to the end.**

**²⁷He delivers and rescues;
he works signs and wonders
in heaven and on earth,
he who has saved Daniel
from the power of the lions."**

²⁸ So this Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

c) Trust in God

- Daniel trusted in God to the point that he had a more comfortable night in a den of lions than the king had in all the royal luxury of his palace...
- ¹⁶ Then the king commanded, and Daniel was brought and cast into the den of lions. The king declared to Daniel, "May your God, whom you serve continually, deliver you!"
¹⁷ And a stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet and with the signet of his lords, that nothing might be changed concerning Daniel. ¹⁸ Then the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting; no diversions were brought to him, and sleep fled from him.

Daniel devoted himself to God's law, God's way of life... and trusted God to work out the details... big or small, the details are his, and it is our job to be faithful in what we're given.