

Daniel in the Lions Den: Commitment or Indifference?

June 14, 2015

Daniel 6:1-28

Last week we talked about: The dream that represented King Nebuchadnezzar and the pride that led to his seven years of “dwelling with the beasts of the field.”

Chapter 5: We see Belshazzar (not to be confused with the name given to Daniel- Belteshazzar) along with his dad Nabonidus, fails to learn from King Nebuchadnezzar, continues in rebellion, and turns from God. In the end, he is killed (18-30).

Chapter 6: Starts out with Darius taking over Babylon, becoming king after Belshazzar is killed, and from what we know, Darius is indifferent to God and the things of God.

This morning we will compare Darius’ indifference to God with that of the commitment to God that Daniel showed.

Indifference: When one doesn’t really care either way. One can be indifferent to many things but for this morning’s purposes we will say indifference is one who doesn’t care or has a lack of interest/concern for God or the things of God. In this case a person may not be anti God, but not necessary for God!

Darius’ indifference to God and the things of God:

- 1) Caused a _____ decision.

All the governors of the kingdom, the administrators and satraps, the counselors and advisors, have consulted together to establish a royal statute and to make a firm decree, that whoever petitions any god or man for thirty days, except you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions. ⁸ Now, O king, establish the decree and sign the writing, so that it cannot be changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which does not alter.” ⁹ Therefore King Darius signed the written decree. **Daniel 6:7-9**

Darius decided to follow other _____ and their wishes and desires _____ of God!

Jesus has called for us to follow Him, not our own desires, other “philosophies” or lies!

Then He said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” **Matthew 4:19**

- 2) Left him very _____.

And the king, when he heard these words, was greatly displeased with himself, and set his heart on Daniel to deliver him; and he labored till the going down of the sun to deliver him. **Daniel 6:14**

Darius liked Daniel as a person and as a leader in his kingdom (6:3) and yet he was **indifferent** to his God, even after knowing and hearing about Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar.

Darius had heard the truth and would have heard of those who had gone before him who had been confronted with the truth, yet _____ and _____ took root!

If we seek to do things our way, trying to make sense of this life without God, we will be left in not only a state of rebellion and stubbornness, but in utter _____.

God doesn’t desire confusion!

- 3) Left him _____ and _____.

Now the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting; and no musicians were brought before him. Also his sleep went from him. **Daniel 6:18**

Scripture speaks to indifference to God!

I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. ¹⁶ So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. **Revelation 3:15-16**

However, Daniel's commitment and relationship with God:

- 1) **Allowed him to see the big _____.**

He knew that God was in control! He had also seen the track record of His God with Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego along with King Nebuchadnezzar!

- 2) **Helped him to do what was _____ and _____ strong when other's didn't.**

Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days.¹¹ Then these men assembled and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God. **Daniel 6:10-11**

Daniel followed _____ and not other _____!

- 3) **Gave him _____ when faced with _____.**

Just like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego Daniel knew that it was a possibility that he could be killed, yet He trusted God either way!

Daniel knew that no matter what happened he could _____ God!

His faith wasn't so much that he would be saved from the lions, but rather whatever happened he could trust God. He knew God would use "whatever" and would be glorified. Either way, Daniel would be _____!

- 4) **Was a _____ to King Darius and helped his indifference be done away with.**

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**

Now the king was exceedingly glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no injury whatever was found on him, because he believed in his God. **Daniel 6:23**

I make a decree that in every dominion of my kingdom men must tremble and fear before the God of Daniel. For He is the living God, And steadfast forever; His kingdom is the one which shall not be destroyed, And His dominion shall endure to the end. ²⁷ He delivers and rescues, And He works signs and wonders In heaven and on earth, Who has delivered Daniel from the power of the lions. **Daniel 6:26-27**

This morning are you "indifferent" to God and the things of God or are you committed to God, following Him and trusting Him completely? What are our other choices? What you commit to put your indifference to the side so God can speak and show himself to you?