

The Book of Daniel The Secret Source of Courage

Introduction:

1. Up to now, we have looked at the righteous stand of Daniel and his companions.
2. ***“Our God is able ...but if not, be it known that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image.”***
3. The story of Darius – ***Daniel 5:31***
4. The first thing he does is reorganize the kingdom.
5. The purpose of that—***verse 2—is so that “the king might not suffer loss.”***
6. Daniel is one of the three people who run everything
7. No negligence or corruption could be found in him; those people had only one ground to attack him: his faith commitments.
8. They go to the king and say, “O king, live forever.” That was a form of greeting. They say, ***“We’ve got an idea. You’re a great man. We want to honor you, and we’re going to forbid everybody in the kingdom, under the law of the Medes and the Persians, which are irrevocable, that instead of praying to their gods, they should pray to you. We’ll make you God for 30 days,”*** which is ridiculous. But he signs the document.
9. Daniel knew what had been decreed, but he continued to go to his house, which had windows in his upper room opened toward Jerusalem, and to get down on his knees three times a day to pray to his God and praise him, just as he had done previously
10. He knew that if he didn’t pray to his God, he would join in the idolatry that prevailed in the land for a month. So, he decides that he is going to protest against it.
11. ***Verse 11: While he was praying, he sought mercy before his God.***
12. In the meantime, while he is doing his quiet time, his journaling, and so on—the other guys are in the wings with their zoom lenses and their tape recorders.
13. The king is a wimp because he tries everything to save Daniel, and he can’t. His signature binds him.
14. Daniel is thrown to the lions, and the king goes to his palace and spends the night fasting.
15. Early in the morning, the king got up and hurried to the lion's den.
16. ***And he cries out, “Oh Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you faithfully serve, because you serve him, been able to deliver you from the lions?”***
17. ***Verse 23: “No harm was found on him because he trusted his God.”***
18. The king commanded that those who had accused Daniel—122 of them—were brought and thrown into the lions' den.

In but not of this world:

1. Believers live in a state of tension in this world. This world is ruled by the system of the centrality of man—of humans.
2. We want to leave God where He is and live in dependency and subservience to God, following his commands.
3. Christians should not be anti-cultural but counter-cultural.
4. There is the erroneous teaching that we are entitled to all things good and will never face adversity.

Remain Distinctive:

1. There is no sense for the Christian, the believer, to join the crowd and then claim faith.

2. *Galatians 5, where the royal law, the great law, and the kingdom law are to love and, therefore, to be servants.*

2. *James 2 says if we relate in love with each other in a community, with no discrimination among ourselves.*

A God of Hope:

1. Because of the conflict between the two systems, you can expect opposition and possibly the lion's den.
2. He met with adversity. And eventually, he was reduced to crying out, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"
3. Scripture tells us that we should consider him, who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, so that we may not lose heart because the same thing will happen to us.
4. Some of us are struggling with lions within
5. Story of Stephen
6. *Acts 5:28 "that all of Jerusalem was saturated with the preaching about Jesus.*
7. It is being strongly established in Jerusalem. Not for one moment do they think back to the order of Jesus to go from Jerusalem to Judea to Samaria and then to go to the world.
8. Could it be that this was and is the case with the church in the West, especially in the US?
9. No longer is the challenge to go to the world as in previous generations when thousands of people went onto the world's mission fields.
10. The mission field is in our backyard as millions of people have made their way to our country.
11. Could the Covid lockdown be the defining moment for the church of the 21st Century, just as *Acts 8:1* began the first worldwide missionary movement?
12. Video Adm Raven – "What starts here changes the world" **Adm. McRaven Urges Graduates to Find Courage to Change the World**
13. *"Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest."*

There are Lions:

1. *The lions are around, and they're going to devour*
2. *"Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he cried out with a loud voice, the prayer of forgiveness, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." "Forgive them, for they do not know what they're doing."*
3. *"Consider it nothing but joy because you know that the testing of faith produces endurance, character, patience, growth, spiritual refinement."*
4. *The Kingdom Advance* - In God's economy, somehow, the greatest advances and kingdom advances come through suffering.
5. *In Acts 8:1—the day when Stephen was killed when the lions finally got him—severe persecution began against the church in Jerusalem.*
6. *"Like a roaring lion, your adversary, the devil, prowls around you, looking for someone to devour."*
7. After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you.
8. What is important is the long-term achievement of God's purposes in your life and in the life of the church.

