

## Deeper

### Daniel in the Lion's Den

#### Daniel 6:3-10; 16-23

<sup>3</sup> Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the administrators and the satraps by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. <sup>4</sup> At this, the administrators and the satraps tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs, but they were unable to do so. They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent. <sup>5</sup> Finally these men said, "We will never find any basis for charges against this man Daniel unless it has something to do with the law of his God."

<sup>6</sup> So these administrators and satraps went as a group to the king and said: "May King Darius live forever! <sup>7</sup> The royal administrators, prefects, satraps, advisers and governors have all agreed that the king should issue an edict and enforce the decree that anyone who prays to any god or human being during the next thirty days, except to you, Your Majesty, shall be thrown into the lions' den. <sup>8</sup> Now, Your Majesty, issue the decree and put it in writing so that it cannot be altered—in accordance with the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed." <sup>9</sup> So King Darius put the decree in writing.

<sup>10</sup> Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before.

<sup>16</sup> So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions' den. The king said to Daniel, "May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!" <sup>17</sup> A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the rings of his nobles, so that Daniel's situation might not be changed. <sup>18</sup> Then the king returned to his palace and spent the night without eating and without any entertainment being brought to him. And he could not sleep. <sup>19</sup> At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions' den. <sup>20</sup> When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?" <sup>21</sup> Daniel answered, "O king, live forever! <sup>22</sup> My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, O king." <sup>23</sup> The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den. And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.

Daniel was a very powerful man of God.

This was the third King that Daniel served under.

1. Nebuchadnezzar
2. Belshazzar

### 3. Darius

His interpretation of the “Writing on the wall” at Belshazzar’s banquet has turned into a contemporary phrase that has influence and meaning still to this day.

1. Shortest of the four major prophetic books and the most read and studied of all the OT prophets.
2. In prophetic passages on the NT Daniel is quoted or alluded to more often than any other OT book.

He had been taken into Babylonian captivity to serve in the King's palace.

In Daniel 6 the prophet is 80 yrs old.

#### I. Every crisis looks for a voice.

##### Daniel 6:3

Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the administrators and the satraps by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom.

- A. *Distinguished* - to set oneself apart as qualified, implying a reputation of excellence among a peer group
  1. He set himself apart.
  2. Wickedness will always hate righteousness.
  3. He was visibly different.
  4. Those around him could recognize his integrity.
  5. His character and wisdom had an almost tangible quality.
- B. God's people were in crisis.
  1. They were in Babylonian captivity.
  2. Temple was torn down.
  3. Sacrificial system was not being practiced.
  4. The priests were not established.
    - a. They were not doing their job.
    - b. They were not interceding.
    - c. The work of intercession was not happening.
    - d. The Levites were not teaching.
- C. They were in Babylonian captivity.
  1. Foreign land.
  2. Foreign ways.
  3. Different everything all around them.

4. Was not God's normal even though culturally many of them only knew what was in front of them – Babylon not Jerusalem
  - a. Land of foreign God's
  - b. Not the Holy City.
- D. God was using Daniel to be a voice during a crisis point.
  1. Daniel found a way to flourish even in the midst of Babylon.
  2. He was preparing Daniel for a critical time in history.
  3. God's people were being held hostage.
  4. Liberties and freedoms had been taken away.
  5. They were restricted but Daniel found a way to flourish.

### **Application**

Daniel's voice was developed with three things.

1. Integrity
2. Predictability
3. Unshakable

## **II. Daniel was a man of INTEGRITY**

### **Daniel 6:4**

At this, the administrators and the satraps tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs, but they were unable to do so. They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent.

- A. Daniel spent his life dealing with a difficult situation.
  - 1.
- B. He was full of integrity.
- C. He could be trusted with God's stuff.
- D. He was not touched by the corruption around him.
  1. He was not influenced.
  2. He became the influencer.
- E. He did his job well.

### **Illustration**

- Integrity will set you apart
- I know a guy named Chris. He is an HVAC technician.
- Get's a call that someone's A/C isn't working
- Power but A/C isn't working

- Looked behind the unit and wire is cut.
- This wire is cut and this is the reason it isn't working.
- Reattached the wire. "This was easy"
- Goes back out to the truck and calls the office...
- \$89 for service call and \$40 for repairs = \$129

### **Ronda Robinson Fox 6 on your side.**

- You have been recorded this whole time.
  - How did you come up with this price? Chris tells them.
1. \$400 - \$500 and when they were approached by Rhonda Robinson Fox 6 on your side they dropped it to \$200.
  2. \$1300 to replace the wiring in the board.
  3. One service-man told the homeowner they needed an entire new unit.

### **Application**

1. Be a person of character.
2. How do you thrive when you are tested?
3. Be a person that lives their life based on character.
4. Make your decisions because of your godly standards.

### **James 1:6-8**

<sup>6</sup>But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. <sup>7</sup>That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. <sup>8</sup>Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.

### **Decide ahead of time what you will do.**

- When faced with a decision about whether or not you should tell the truth or bend it a little... decide whether you are going to be honest or dishonest. Tell the truth or lie.
- When a test a school is harder than you thought it would be and you have the opportunity to cheat in order to get a better grade... decide whether you are going to be honest or be cheater. Are you going to let a test score corrupt your soul?
- When at someone's house and the television comes on and you know what is coming through the television screen is not edifying... decide whether you are going to live a life of compromise or be a person of character.
- When you know the boss is not going to be around... decide whether you are going to work like he is there or you are going to be a untruthful, deceitful, fraudulent employee.
- When she looks good or he is saying and doing all the right things and you are pressured or tempted sexually ... decide whether you will live a **life of compromise and immorality** or you will **stand pure before God.**

- Live a life of Character. Be a person of principle and standards.
- Be honest, and diligent and modest and live your life in reverence and honor to Christ.
- Live a Christ honoring life.
- Live a God-First Life.

### **Application**

1. You do not have to compromise to succeed.
2. I don't want success if it cost me my soul.

### **Matthew 16:26**

What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?

### **III. Daniel was Predictable and Consistent.**

#### **Daniel 6:10**

Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before.

A. God can use the predictable.

**The crisis did not change Daniel's behavior.**

**Don't let a crisis change your conduct.**

1. He prayed with the windows open to Jerusalem.
  - a. Remembered his purpose.
  - b. Remembered where he really was from.
  - c. "In the world not of the world."
  - d. Kept his focus on the things of God in a Godless world.
2. He prayed three times per day.
  - a. Discipline of prayer.
  - b. Joy of intercession
  - c. He was public and predictable.

B. It was noted that those around him could predict his response.

#### **Daniel 6:5**

Finally these men said, “We will never find any basis for charges against this man Daniel unless it has something to do with the law of his God.”

1. He brought it to the Lord.
2. He involved God in his everyday living.
3. Many acknowledge God.
4. Acknowledging God is not the same as living for God, with God.
5. Recognizing there is a God is not the same thing as surrendering your life to God.

### **Matthew 7:21-23**

<sup>21</sup> “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. <sup>22</sup> Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ <sup>23</sup> Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’

C. He was predictably godly.

#### **D. There is power in consistency.**

1. Just because you can catch a pass once does not mean you plan in the NFL.
2. You must experience the power of consistent repetition.
3. Drill after drill until it becomes second nature.
4. Yes, you can catch a pass but can you do it with extraordinary pressure.

#### **E. There is momentum in consistency.**

1. Consistency allows you to pick up where you left off.
2. Consistency allows you to build upon your last level.
3. Consistency allows you to get stronger with each day.
4. Consistency allow you to be prepared for the opportunity when it arrives.

“The opportunity of a lifetime needs to be seized during the lifetime of the opportunity.”

- **Leonard Ravenhill**

### **Illustration**

- One of the "behind the scenes" principles tapped by successful people is their ability to persevere, to keep on being productive in spite of circumstances.
- Consistent achievement leads to desired consequences.
- Consistency is the opposite of working only when one feels inspired.
- Persistence requires discipline.

- A person waiting for inspiration limits achievement to periods when conditions are desirable.
- A toughness develops within the person who resolves to continue to go forward regardless of feelings or environment.
- Consistency is a mysterious pattern of behavior.
- It distinguishes excellence from mediocrity.
- Some label this principle as "paying your dues" and that's an accurate assessment.
- Consistency means time is spent with a focus in mind.
- An achiever has something to show for his time while his counterpart doesn't.

Some people go through life getting results; others get consequences.

In other words, if you aren't focused, your energy is dissipated and your consequences occur by default.

- Daniel did not get thrown into the lion's den because he was in the wrong place at the wrong time.
- Daniel got thrown into the lion's den because he was in his usual place at his usual time.

This was not an accident

### **Application**

1. Where do you lack consistency?
2. What would happen if you were consistent for 30 days?
3. What would change in your life?
4. What do you have to change in your life / schedule
5. What values do you need to change?

### **IV. Daniel was Unshakable.**

Unbendable

Unshakable, Resolute, Unyielding, Uncompromising, Determined

"Holy Stubbornness"

### **Daniel 6:13**

Then they said to the king, "Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, Your Majesty, or to the decree you put in writing. He still prays three times a day.'

- A. Victory comes from persistence and unwavering passion to stay the course.
- B. Don't be thrown off your game when the enemy comes at you.

**C. Daniel was not rattled when the edict came down.**

- a. He could have complained.
- b. Why is this happening to me?
- c. Why am I being punished?
- d. How can it be that I trust in you with everything and get framed?
- e. God how could you allow me to be set up like this?

**D. He was not shaken because he found delight in the discipline of intercession.**

1. Daniel did not pray just because he was disciplined.
2. There is a joy in putting God first.
3. There is a joy in allowing God to prioritize your schedule.
4. There is a peace in allowing God to prioritize your schedule.
5. You will never be able to measure up to the world's opinions or the opinions of others.

**E. Daniel made up his mind up long before the Kings edict.**

Daniel knew something about pressure and being unshakable.  
He went through it with his friends.

**Daniel 3:24-25**

<sup>24</sup> Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, "Weren't there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?"

They replied, "Certainly, Your Majesty."

<sup>25</sup> He said, "Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods."

- A. There are miracles that happen in the fire that cannot happen anywhere else.
  1. I don't know if it is faith or desperation.
  2. Desperate situations have the potential to move us further away from God or move us closer to him.
  3. You decide which one happens.
- B. How you go through the fire makes all the difference.  
How you go through the crisis makes all the difference in the world.
- C. Who you go through the fire with makes all the difference.

**Notice a few things.**

1. You and God are a majority but...



- In this case there were three of them and stuck to God and to each other.
- 2. The strongest men were called to bind them up.
- 3. When they were thrown in the fire they became unbound.
- 4. When they were thrown into the fire what had bound them up came off.

“I see four men walking around in the fire, **unbound** and **unharmmed**.”

- God can use the fire to burn off what binds you up.
- God can use the fire to burn off your limitations.
- When you walk with God the fire does not have to burn you but can burn off your limitations.
- As a result of the situation the most unlikely people worshipped God.
- You can go through the fire and it not harm you.

**5. Jesus became visible once they were in the fire.**

- God will be with you in the fire.
- God showed up with them in the fire.
- When you walk with God he will walk with you through the fire.

**6. King Neb. recognizes that God was with them.**

- Other's worshipped God because of how they went through the fire
- In the end they were actually better off for going through the fire.
- They were promoted.

F. Trust comes from relationship.

1. The closer the relationship the higher level of trust.
2. They trusted God.
3. Talk about the Text

**Proverbs 3:5-6**

<sup>5</sup>Trust in the Lord with all your heart;  
do not depend on your own understanding.

<sup>6</sup>Seek his will in all you do,  
and he will show you which path to take.

- A Trusting with all your heart.
- At times there is a battle between depending on your own strength and trusting God with all your heart.
- Cannot depend on your own understanding.

- Why... There are things you cannot see. Only HE can see them.
- Seek his will in all you do.
- When you do this he will show you which path to take.

4. Live like he is right there.
5. Talk to him like he is right beside you.
6. What do you want to do in your heart?

G. I want to please God in this situation.

H. God has a plan in this situation.

1. I may never know the plan.
2. I must trust God.
3. Trust factor must be very high.
4. High level of faith.

### **Illustration**

Imagine these three scenarios:

**Scenario 1:** You're downtown, on a busy city street and a stranger walks up to you, asking you for \$5 to put gas in their car. You may or may not choose to give him money, but how confident are you that they are telling the truth and the money will go towards gas? Not very.

**Scenario 2:** You're at work or school at the vending machine. Someone comes up to you, you've seen around, but you don't really know them. You've never really talked to them. They tell you that they forgot their lunch, and they need a couple of bucks for the vending machine. They tell you they'll pay you back tomorrow. Again, you may choose to give them money or you may not, but how confident would you be that they would pay you back? Fairly.

**Scenario 3:** You've got a close friend--the kind of friend that you talk to every day. You can finish each other's sentences. This is someone you can count on if you ever needed anything. You could call them day or night. He asks to borrow \$100 to pay a bill and promises to pay you back.

How likely are you to trust him to spend the money the way he says he will and to pay you back?

Completely. Why?

Because of the relationship you have with him. Because you know him so well.

### **Application**

- In the same way, the only way to trust God more is to know Him better.
- How do you get to know God better?
- By spending time with Him in prayer and Bible reading.

- The better you get to know Him, the more you will begin to believe that He is trustworthy.
- "We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands." (1 John 2:3).

Trust

Trust in the Lord

### **Psalm 31:14-15**

<sup>14</sup> But I am trusting you, O Lord,  
saying, "You are my God!"

<sup>15</sup> My future is in your hands.

### **Application**

1. Trusting God when adversity comes requires you to have great faith.
2. You are my God.
3. When you trust God you are saying "You are my God!" and "my future is in your hands".

### **Many times God reveals himself when the fire is the hottest.**

### **Daniel 6:25-28**

<sup>25</sup> Then King Darius wrote to all the nations and peoples of every language in all the earth:  
"May you prosper greatly!

<sup>26</sup> "I issue a decree that in every part of my kingdom people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel.

"For he is the living God  
and he endures forever;

his kingdom will not be destroyed,  
his dominion will never end.

<sup>27</sup> He rescues and he saves;  
he performs signs and wonders  
in the heavens and on the earth.

He has rescued Daniel  
from the power of the lions."

<sup>28</sup> So Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

### **Conclusion**

1. Every crisis looks for a voice.
2. Every need is looking for a prophetic voice.
3. Daniel developed his voice through.

- a. Integrity
- b. Predictable and Consistent
- c. Unbendable  
Unshakable, Resolute, Unyielding, Uncompromising, Determined  
“Holy Stubbornness”