

Entrusting Ourselves to God in Doing What is Right
Daniel 6; Coast Community Church; Pastor Earl Miles; 3-20-2022

Introduction

What is more important to you: comfort or courage? God has told us true stories like the one we will read today in order to ‘put courage’ (encourage) in our hearts. (Romans 15:4) Courage to do what? To suffer for doing what is right. (1 Peter 4:19)

The Divine Law: *Be Different (1-5)*

Many people want to be different. They want to stand out in a crowd. They want to be unique and able to draw a following. This desire to be different can be a good thing if it is like what we see in the life of Daniel.

- An extraordinary spirit (3) = he stood out in a crowd
- The law of his God (5) = the Word of God given to the Jewish People

We need to be different from the world, in that, we live according to a different standard: the Word of God. – Matthew 7:24-27

The Man-made Law: *Be Ready (6-9)*

School is a good metaphor for life. School is about learning. School involves instruction and testing. The instruction is meant to prepare us for the testing. School, in a sense, is about being ready for the test that is coming. The testing is a part of the learning because it encourages us to prepare and it reveals what we have or have not learned. Here we see how Daniel would be tested.

- Anyone who makes a petition to any god or man (7) = making the king the only god to be worshiped, at worst, or the only mediator between a god and man, at best
- According to the law of the Medes and Persians (8) = setting up a conflict between the law of God and the law of man

We need to be ready for ways in which our commitment to what is right and God’s Word will be challenged and tested. – 1 Kings 13:20-26

Obedient Disobedience: *Be Misunderstood (10-15)*

Being misunderstood or misrepresented is a common experience of life and a common strategy for those who desire our hurt. Daniel was content to be misunderstood and misrepresented and to suffer for it, in order to do what is right and please God.

- When Daniel knew that the document was signed (10) = Daniel knew that the lions’ den would eventually follow his prayer time!
- Pays no attention to you (13) = false accusation

We need to be comfortable with being misunderstood by the watching world when we defy man-made rules in order to obey God’s Word. – Matthew 27:33-44

Ultimate Outcome: *Be Vindicated (16-23)*

All of us long to be vindicated. God promises that those who trust Him and do what is right will be vindicated (shown to be right and pleasing to God) in this life or in the life to come. We see Daniel being vindicated in this very trial for the sake of those around him.

- O King, live forever (21) = a gracious response to the one who threw him into the lions' den!
- I was found innocent before Him and you (22) = we can break an unlawful law and not sin against God or man
- I have committed no crime (22) = Daniel disobeyed a law that was unlawful, therefore this disobedience was no crime in the eyes of God

We should rest in the knowledge that one day we will be vindicated as being in the right, whether in the world or in the world to come. – 2 Thessalonians 1:3-10

Lasting Effects: *Be Fruitful (24-28)*

We want our hard work and suffering to bear lasting fruit. This is what we see in this story. Daniel's suffering bore the fruit of a lasting testimony to God's love and power as well as a lasting impact on others.

- They had not reached the bottom of the den before the lions overpowered them (24) = this makes clear that Daniel's deliverance was a miracle and not just the result of lions who were dead or sick or not hungry.
- Who has delivered Daniel from the power of the lions (27) = it took Daniel being thrown into the lions' den for Darius to see something of the glory of God and so it is with the suffering of believers for the sake of unbelievers

In suffering for doing what is right, we need to find comfort in that it will be a testimony to others to the truth and will bring about God's mercy and judgment. – John 12:20-26

Conclusion

Is it important to be able to 'face the lions'?

1. Denying Christ is not the unpardonable sin. – Luke 22:31-34
2. But not loving our lives even to death is a fruit of real faith. - Revelation 12:11

So, what should I take away today from this passage?

1. God loves His people and can deliver them out of any situation. – Psalm 34:15-22
2. God gives us examples to follow: God is worth dying for! – James 5:10; Hebrews 13:7; Psalm 73:25-28
3. A faithful life is important. – 1 Peter 3:13-17
4. Regular communion with God is important. – Luke 21:36
5. Jesus is the ultimate Daniel who faced the 'lion' who seeks to devour us and emerged victorious and vindicated! Trust Him! – Luke 13:33; John 7:25; Matthew 26:39-46; Hebrews 11:32-40; 12:1-3; 1 Peter 5:6-11