

“God Saves, and We’re Not Lion!”

Series: Different

Last few weeks:

- Focusing on the life of Daniel, who was extraordinarily able to remain faithful, pure [undefiled],
- Shadrack, Meshach and Abednego's devotion was to the Lord above anything else -
- CAN'T HAVE biblical favor without biblical devotion!
- Last week - need for humility as seek to be 'different'
- Start with words to You Are I Am? [spoken, not sung : P]

You Are I Am Refrain: by Mercy Me

You're the one who conquers giants; You're the one who calls out kings You shut the mouths of lions, You tell the dead to breathe, You're the one who walks through fire, You take the orphan's hand, You are the one Messiah, You are I am, You are I am

Tension: Our God is a God of miracles, provision, protection who is worthy of our Praise & Prayers! THIS WEEK...significance of role of prayer in our ability to draw near to God and persevere...and the significance and purpose of prophecy/signs & wonders in the Kingdom...

Daniel 6:1-5 (NIV)

- Favor with God and man (Talked about it before)
 - 3rd King in whom Daniel had found favor; king trusted Daniel

Daniel 6:6-9 (NIV)

- Even Though Daniel had 'favor' still those out to get him
 - Lived in persecution and suffering
- Obedient to the greatest 2 commandments
- Found no corruption in Daniel; Daniel was 'beyond reproach'
- Powerful statement - they knew the ONLY way they could undermine him was to use his own faithfulness against him
- Random Chris thought: Given Daniel's faith, did the satraps ever, I don't know, consider following Daniel's God instead of looking to bring Daniel down? Seems like a strike in the whole "Let your life be an example and people will see your life and be drawn to Christianity" - example not enough...if didn't work of Daniel, probably not going to work for us - not how God uses us to bring salvation [uses signs and wonders...]
- Pride at work (last week)
 - Administrators and satraps appealed to Darius' ego
 - Last week, pride and lack of humility greatest reason Belshazzar's lost his kingdom and favor
 - King Darius
 - Pride/ego can negatively impact those around us, even if not intentional

Daniel 6:10-11 (NIV)

- Obedient to the Lord's commands not the king's or worldly rules
 - Jesus wasn't big on 'dumb rules' either
- Prayer
 - Pattern of "just as he had done before"
 - Prayer of thanksgiving, Prayer asking for help
 - Prayer as first response, not last resort
 - First response prayer, not complaining, not talking to everyone and their brother about the problem, not angst...venting is not a Biblical principle
 - 3 times a day= Jewish hours of prayer, 9AM, 12PM, and 3PM

- At this point in Daniel's life, prayer wasn't religious duty but relationship; he has decades under his belt 50-60 years of God coming through and providing and protecting Daniel, though didn't mean all was smooth sailing
- Things change when you get into the presence of Jesus
 - Winds calmed, People healed, Miracles happen
 - What should prayer time look?
 - OK to pray for yourself. No need to feel guilty; also not ok to just pray for yourself - ok to seek the Lords help and mercy
- Prayer for Daniel was a 'death sentence', still that way for followers of Christ around the world (China) (10/40 window)
 - So what's your excuse?

Daniel 6:12-13 (NIV)

- 'Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah'
 - Daniel has been in Babylon for years, Still referred to as 'one of the exiles'
 - Still a foreigner, alien, still an outsider - never fit in the culture; has not conformed to the pattern of their world; still 'different'

Daniel 6:14-18 (NIV)

- Fasting and Prayer
 - Not necessarily what the king did= couldn't eat or sleep= anxiety; guilt?
 - Back in the fall
 - Our call to fasting and prayer March 15th

Daniel 6:19-23 (NIV)

- No wound found on Daniel, though the lions were famished as evident in verse 24 when those who sought to undermine were thrown to the lions
- Complete protection
- Very similar to Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in Ch. 3 "no harm was found on him"
- In this situation Why no harm= because he had trusted in his God!!! Miracle was a sign/wonder God used to bring Darius to faith in the One True God

Daniel 6:24-28 (NIV)

- Prophecy by King Darius & statement of faith
 - Living God- Endures forever- Rescues and saves- Signs and wonders
 - Rescued Daniel= power of lions not more powerful than our God
- Gospel connection - God rescues and saves through the blood of Jesus
 - Communion= 1 Cor. 11:26 "proclaim the Lord's death till he comes"
 - By his wounds we are healed, salvation= Sozo= wholeness/healing
- Miracles, signs and wonders led unbelievers (King Darius and his kingdom) to revelation of the Living God
 - These things must be evident in our churches today!
 - Do the things Jesus did SO THAT people will be
 - John 14:12 Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.
 - Mark 16: 15-17
 - 1cor 14:23-25
 - These things, signs and wonders, were born out of the relationship Daniel had with the Lord= prayer
 - Can't just turn on a switch
 - God is not a genie in a bottle

Guidance for Life's Adventure