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Daniel 6:1-28
The Laurel Center
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Main Idea: faithfulness brings trials but great rewards to God's servants.

Introduction

Last time we met I talked to you about the last great day of the great empire of Babylon. I explained why God called Babylon's number and King Belshazzar went too far in his celebration. God is really serious about holiness. But this time I want to tell you about the faithfulness of God's servants. I was put in place politically of great power and people in such a high place need to be an example.

In that place, it was imperative for me to act in a godly way as I was put on the world's stage so to speak. I was challenged to live the way that I have always lived in private and in public. As with the time my friends and I first came to Babylon refused to give in to peer pressure and popular desires. We did not need the king's food and God came through for us. So also in this situation I refuse to give in to the demands of fellow satraps. Let me tell you about the time I spent a night with the lions.

Text – Daniel 6:20–22

20 As he came near to the den where Daniel was, he cried out in a tone of anguish. The king declared to Daniel, "O Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?" **21** Then Daniel said to the king, "O king, live forever! **22** My God sent his angel and shut the lions' mouths, and they have not harmed me, because I was found blameless before him; and also before you, O king, I have done no harm."

I. God rewards the faithfulness of his servants (vv. 1 – 9).

A People can see the value of faithfulness.

- 1 Satraps are sort of like governors and the Persian Empire. They run the towns and other areas of the Empire and report back to the Emperor himself.
- 2 Even King Darius realizes the great abilities of a person like Daniel. When we do what God tells us to and he blesses us for our faithfulness, even unbelievers recognize our character and our talents.
- 3 We can serve in the public eye and even in politics as long as we keep our principles and serve the Lord first in the area of public office. No matter what we do we must remain faithful to God even when challenged by others.

B Faithfulness is a reward in itself and brings honor.

- 1 Daniel received this great honor of serving King Darius because he remained faithful to God. God rewarded him with this ability to have such great influence in the Empire.
- 2 Daniel served three different regimes: Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar and Darius. His ability to bring wisdom to the table made him valuable in every Empire that he was exiled to.

II. Challenges and trials arise for the faithful (vv. 10 – 18).

A The unfaithful will be jealous and attempt to find fault.

- 1 The other satraps and the other two leaders of the satraps became jealous of Daniel and wanted to get rid of him. When they looked into all of these accountings for the government, they found that he was above reproach.
- 2 Daniels faithfulness to the Lord was also backed up by purity and integrity. We must live for God and show his greatness and his attributes in our work, character and lives.
- 3 We are called to represent Christ in this world and we must be above reproach. He is working in us the kind of character and righteousness that will honor him in our public and private lives.
- 4 We must be above reproach and people of integrity. The way that we live in private and in public should be the same. There should be no difference between the two. Integrity means that you are the same in private as one public.

B Faithfulness brings trial in a fallen world.

- 1 Because we live in a fallen world and was living among sinners, we will find that they will attack us for our integrity and faithfulness to God. We must remain faithful despite the trials and difficulties others bring us.
- 2 One of the best ways to change the world is to show it's something it is not used to seeing. Integrity and faithfulness our values the world does not carry with it and so when we demonstrate them it impresses even the world.

III. God rescues the faithful servants from their trials (vv. 19 – 28).

A God protects his servants because of their faithfulness.

- 1 Daniel's put in the lion's den because he decided to be a man of integrity and not change his lifestyle and faithfulness to God in his times of prayer. Do not let the world win against your faithfulness to God. God always comes first and he honors those who choose him over the world.

- 2 God always rewards faithfulness to him. We should always put God first. His rewards are greater than the world can offer. God can protect us against anything that the world can throw at us.

B God receives the glory for his faithful servants.

- 1 In the end our faithfulness to God, observed righteousness and integrity may not impress the world but they impress our Lord. Ultimately she receives all of the glory for our faithfulness to him.
- 2 Even the unrighteous must honor God when they see our faithfulness to him. They do not understand the loyalty that we showed God because they are not used to seeing it around them.
- 3 We glorify God when we are faithful to him despite the dangers that are thrown at us by the world. We must stand firm and trust in him no matter what the world offers us.

Conclusion

So you see how when we are put into place of high honor we must continue to be God's servants and act in public as we would in private. God will always protect his servants when they remained faithful to him even in the face of great danger. It is always better to choose God's way rather than give up on him in the moments that you are chosen to be on the world's stage. God puts us in these places because he wants to show people how he rewards his faithful servants when they remain faithful to him.