

Daniel in the Lion's Den

Int.

1. Aim: To study the text of Daniel 6 and then bring some lessons from the life of Daniel.
2. Rm. 15:4
3. Daniel is an important and interesting character of the Old Testament
 - a. A book is written by him telling about his life and works
 - b. He was a Jew taken captive into Babylon.
 - c. As a young man he refused to partake of the king's food and he was blessed with great wisdom and many opportunities.
4. This chapter tells about his ordeal with the Lions Den.
5. Plan of lesson:
 - a. Tell the story
 - b. Then mention some lessons we can learn from this event that apply to us today.

Discussion

I. THE STORY OF DANIEL IN THE LIONS DEN - Chapter Six

A. Verse 1

1. Who was this Darius?
 - a. He is unknown in history
 - b. But that does not prove he did not exist.!
2. He set 120 men over the whole kingdom
3. He was very efficiently organized

B. Verse 2

1. Three princes set over them
2. Daniel was the first
3. This was done to keep the king from being responsible for mistakes

C. Verse 3

1. Historical fact reported by Daniel
2. The king was considering setting him in an office above all the others

D. Verse 4

1. Jealousy leads them to try to destroy Daniel
2. They searched in vain to find some fault

E. Verse 5

1. Only in his religious devotion could they manufacture a fault.
2. This they did by trying to trap him.
3. They knew he would be true to God

F. Verses 6-8

1. Scheme fully hatched out - decree that no one could offer a petition to anyone but the king for 30 days
2. Punishment - cast into the lions den
3. Deceived about the unanimous decision
4. They make it appear to be for the honor of Darius
5. Law of Medes and Persians cannot be altered or changed

G. Verse 9

1. He signed it without delay
2. He suspected nothing

H. Verse 10

1. Why did Daniel go at once?
 - a. To delay prayer or go in secret would have been a confession of fear or unbelief.
 - b. Would have been known as a man who would serve only in good times - only if no price or penalty was to be paid
 - c. If he had not gone at once it would have been a denial
2. Prayed 3 times a day as usual - Ps. 55:17
3. He did not change or slow down - he prayed to God in usual way

I. Verse 11

1. They found Daniel praying to God
2. There was a large group so they could be witnesses together and one man would not be called in question

J. Verse 12

1. They rehearse the law with Darius
2. They appear to be only concerned about the king
3. The king commits himself - by saying "that's right"

K. Verse 13

1. He was of captives of Judah - a foreigner
2. Daniel had regard for the king = he had done nothing of disrespect to him
3. He prays 3 times a day to his God

L. Verse 14

1. His reaction was not what they thought it would be
2. The king then realized what the trick was all about.
3. He worked all day trying to change this
4. Justice was given swiftly - at nightfall

M. Verse 15

1. All these who plotted against Daniel got together
2. Can't change the law

N. Verses 16-17

1. Summary
2. Darius speaks to Daniel confident that his God would deliver
3. Stone put on mouth of den
4. Sealed so no one could change the punishment

O. Verses 18-19

1. Fasted during the night
2. He had no entertainment - and he could not sleep
3. Got up at dawn to go check on Daniel

P. Verse 20

1. Cried with a lamentable voice to Daniel = pitiable
2. Expressed his hope that Daniel's God had delivered him
3. He is "able"

Q. Verse 21

1. Daniel answers
2. "O King, live for ever" - May thy days be lengthened

R. Verse 22

1. Respectful as usual to Daniel - not spiteful
2. Statement of what Happened - God delivered
3. "Angel" - Heb. 1:14 Shut mouths - Heb. 11:33
4. Delivered because he was innocent
5. I have done nothing wrong to you O King.

S. Verse 23

1. King was very glad [exceedingly]
2. Get him out of there
3. No hurt - for he trusted in his God
4. Could have been scratched or hurt even if mouth was locked but God protected him.

T. Verse 24

1. Bloody scene -
2. Plotters received fate designed for Daniel
3. The Mosaic law would have exempted the wives and children, but not the law of the Babylonians
4. Only those involved in the plot

U. Verse 25-27

1. All the people who dwell in the land - peace be multiplied unto you
2. Respect - tremble and fear for God of Daniel
3. He can work mighty signs
4. He is "the living God"

V. Verse 28

1. Daniel prospered
2. It pleased God to extend his usefulness

II. LESSONS FROM CHAPTER SIX

A. # 1 A Good personality - excellent spirit

1. V. 3 Excellent spirit
 - a. Daniel was probably a young man of about 18 or 19 years of age
 - b. Why would he be chosen above all the others?
 - c. The answer is found in V. 3 when he tells us that he was preferred because of his excellent spirit

d. He had a pleasing personality

2. Application:

a. We need to develop and maintain a good personality

b. Love, kindness, consideration, and patience are part of a good personality.

c. Lk. 2:52

(1) Jesus had a pleasing personality

(2) No one ever accused him of being rude, crude or ugly.

(3) He had a perfect personality example.

d. A good personality will help us in life!

B. # 2 He Had ENEMIES

1. A good man sometimes has enemies

2. We should not become discouraged because we have enemies

3. II Tim. 3:12

4. Good men are usually complimented by the class of people who are their enemies

a. A man that is faithful to God in all things will be opposed and persecuted

b. Different kinds of persecution

c. If we stand up for the truth we will be persecuted.

d. Antagonism between flesh and spirit.

5. Mt. 5:11-12

C. # 3 A man with RELIGIOUS CONVICTION

1. His enemies looked for some fault in his life whereof they could accuse him to the king, but they could find none!
 - a. They looked - probably even had his house staked out with some detectives - did a lot of work
 - b. Application - how long would it take for people to find something in our life of which they could accuse us before the king?
 - c. We need to be people of religious conviction
2. They finally concluded that if they found anything wrong in Daniel it would have to be about his religion!
 - a. They knew that Daniel would obey God.
 - b. So they had to enact a law that would go against his religion
 - c. This was when they tricked the king
 - d. That is great compliment of Daniels' life.
3. Application
 - a. Wouldn't it be great if the only way people could find a fault in our life is if they passed some law that conflicted with God's laws and they knew that we would keep God's laws.
 - b. Acts 5:29
 - c. When we live such good lives that our enemies cannot find anything wrong with us, we will surely be pleasing to the Lord.

D. # 4 A MAN OF PRAYER

1. His prayer habits were very good
2. He prayed 3 times a day as his custom was v.10
 - a. It was Daniel's custom to face Jerusalem while praying
 - b. This was probably the custom of all Jews in a foreign land.
3. Could Daniel have stood the test of the Lions' Den if he had not been a prayerful man?
4. Application
 - a. We are to be people of prayer
 - b. I Thes. 5:17 "Pray without ceasing." = Many people have ceased to pray
 - c. We can pray to God even in captivity
 - d. Never is it possible to take a vacation from God or escape his presence.
 - e. God our heavenly Father desires us to pray!
 - f. Col.4:2 "Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with all thanksgiving."

E. # 5 A MAN OF VALOR = bravery, courage

1. When he knew the decree had been signed he did not quit praying
2. This could have been a time for compromise:
 - a. Maybe he could have shut his windows or gone into the closet
 - b. Maybe he could have prayed silently
 - c. Maybe he could have only prayed 1 time a day and that in the middle of the night
 - d. He could have decided that since the law was to be in effect for only 30 days he could skip prayer for that long!

3. Daniel just acted as if the decree did not exist!
 - a. He continued as normal
 - (1) Daniel did not make any frantic last appeals to the king to save him from the lion.
 - (2) He was a brave man, believing that God would take care of him.
 - (3) If it was God's will for him to die at that time in that way, he was willing.
 - (4) But if it was not God's will for him to die at that time, he would save him from the lion.
 - (5) This kind of trust and bravery brings peace and happiness.
 - b. He wanted God's approval more than he wanted the approval of the king!
4. Application:
 - a. I Cor. 16:13
 - b. We must be strong men of valor
 - c. There is no way we can compromise the truth - either doctrine or morality!!!
 - d. Determine to do right no matter what the cost!

CONCLUSION

1. Daniel was Delivered
 - a. Rm. 8:31 "I f God be for us, who can be against us?"
 - b. We need not fear any person or any thing if God is on our side and we are on God's side
 - c. When we stand up for Jesus against all earthly foes, we gain strength for future trials, and along the way we can influence others to believe in the God of the universe.
 - d. Someone said that the lions could not consume Daniel because he was all backbone
2. Daniel had a good influence
 - a. Just because a man is a captive does not mean he can not exert a powerful influence for good.
 - b. Joseph and Daniel both did exert a good influence
3. Lessons
 - (1) Good personality
 - (2) Enemies
 - (3) Religious Conviction
 - (4) Man of Prayer
 - (5) Man of Valor
4. Let us never be discouraged in living right and doing good.
5. Daniel in the Lions Den!