

Obeying God Even When it Could Hurt- 4

Introduction

- Daniel has graduated college and has been promoted to 2nd in command. He is working for the third king now.
- Daniel's is a moral, honest, & hard-working man. He invests in his community. Surely every one would love someone like this?
- In an increasing secular society, naturally there will come resistance & persecution to followers of Jesus.

What do we do if laws or rules are put in place that prohibit us from practicing our faith?

I. A Real Enemy (Dan. 6:4-9)

1. We have a real enemy that is against us.

-I Pet. 5:8, Eph. 6:11-12

-There will be some who want to tear down a honest hard working person.

-People will lie, deceive, and try to a believer's destroy testimony.

2. Daniel had such a strong life story that his enemies could not find a way to tear him down.

-*What do they find in vs. 4?* No skeletons or covered up lies. People should have to dig hard to find nothing.

3. They will not stop here but go to great lengths to trap Daniel.

-*What is their plan?*

-Could not pray to God or capital punishment.

-Can only trap him in his faithfulness to God!

-*Why did they choose this particular plan?*

-Knew he could not go without praying for 30 days.

4. *Have any laws or rules been set up like this?*

- For teachers & students in schools, government workers,
& certain buildings,

II. A Real Faith (Dan. 6:10-20)

1. *As soon as Daniel hears about the law what does he do?*
 - Does he gripe, complain, or get angry?
 - He went & prayed- He immediately disobeyed the law.
2. He prayed publicly & unashamedly.
 - Open windows in a kneeling position three times a day.
 - Why not closed windows, sitting w/o head bowed, and super early or late?
3. *Was Daniel just being hard-headed or obstinate?*
 - No, "*As he did aforetime*" This is what Daniel did each day. Just another day. Who Daniel is.
 - Enemy knew it & devised this specific plan.
4. *What if someone asks you not to pray, read bible, talk about God, pray in Jesus name?*
 - When is it ok to go against a law or rule?*
 - Acts 5:17-21, 25-29** (What changed in Peter?)
 - When that law/rule causes you to compromise what God has instructed us to do.
5. Daniel possessed a real faith & God remained first in his life.
 - He was willing to face consequences.
 - His faith is who he was and not something he did.**

III. A Real God (Dan. 6:21-28)

1. The king asks Daniel whether His God is real & able to save.
 - Why did God protect Daniel?* (vs. 22 & 23)
 - He was innocent & believed God.
2. Justice is served on Daniel's enemies.(24)
 - Rom. 12:19-21**

3. Because Daniel stayed true & did not compromise, God used it in a mighty way to promote Daniel's faith. (25-28)
 - God was glorified!

Application

-What will you do when faced with similar circumstances?

-God has a purpose & can use evil & bad for His good.