**God Is Able to Deliver You**

**Daniel 6:18-28**

**Introduction**

Daniel was a man of character. He was a man of character when in the spotlight, and he was a man of character in private. FB Meyer said, “The supreme test of goodness is not in the greater but in the smaller incidents of our character and practice; not what we are when standing in the searchlight of public scrutiny, but when we reach the firelight flicker of our homes; not what we are when some clarion-call rings through the air, summoning us to fight for life and liberty, but our attitude when we are called to sentry-duty in the grey morning, when the watch-fire is burning low. It is impossible to be our best at the supreme moment if character is corroded and eaten into by daily inconsistency, unfaithfulness, and besetting sin.” Even under difficult circumstances, Daniel acted according to character. Daniel was a man of character because he was a man of faith. Thus, Daniel’s faith had been a blessing to his life. This time, however, his faith brought him into a time of conflict and personal attack. What happened when Daniel’s faith brought him into conflict?

1. **Daniel’s faith in God brought him into conflict with those going a different direction.**
   1. Daniel had faith in God that was not crisis oriented. He didn’t just pray when times were tough.
   2. Daniel had consistent faith in God. Daniel remained the same. The culture changed around him.
   3. Daniel was faithful to serve the Lord and the king as long as there was not a conflict in serving each.
   4. King Darius was duped into signing a law that brought Daniel’s loyalty to God into conflict with his loyalty to the state.
   5. The leaders who deceived Darius were driven by envy.
2. Aspiration looks up and says, "I aspire to be there, too." Envy, on the other hand, looks up and says, "I want you to be below me." (Kreeft)
3. Envy can rear its ugly head when someone preaches better, sings better, drives a better car, lives in a bigger home, cooks better, dresses better, jumps higher, runs faster, writes better, lives better, works better, putts better, and gets more attention or recognition. This is how the men under Daniel felt. They were eaten up by envy!
   1. When the conflict surfaced, Daniel chose to continue serving the Lord. (v. 10, 16) This was the same choice the early church had to make. (Acts 5:29)
   2. There have been times when a government turns against those who are truly beneficial to their country.
4. Daniel was praying for Darius and the kingdom. He was not a threat.
5. Little did the Pharisees and Sadducees understand that the early church was doing the best thing for Israel.
6. It appears that the leadership of our own country has turned against those who stand for freedom and morality, as though we were a threat to our society.
   1. When Daniel had to choose between loyalty to God and loyalty to man, he chose to be faithful to God. As a result, he was thrown to the lions. They sealed Daniel in what appeared to be his final resting place. (v. 17)
7. If he was going to come forth from that tomb, he would have to be delivered by someone on the inside.
8. There was no one on earth (not even the king) who could help him now.
9. **Central Idea: The same faith that brought Daniel into conflict with worldly men also brought him into contact with God’s help.** 
   1. The king manifested great concern for Daniel. (v. 18) He couldn’t sleep that night, and passed the night fasting on Daniel’s behalf.
   2. Very early the next morning, the king hurried to the den. (v. 19-20) He cried out to Daniel in a worried voice, “Is thy God…able to deliver thee from the lions?”
   3. Daniel’s voice must have been a great relief to the king. (v. 21)
   4. God sent an angel to keep Daniel company during the night and to shut the lion’s mouth. (v. 22)
   5. Daniel was delivered because he trusted in his God. (v. 23)
   6. Daniel did not have to deal with his accusers. (v. 24) These men had accused Daniel. The word “accused” is literally “eaten; devoured the pieces of.” It has the idea that they “ate Daniel alive!” They maliciously slandered him. Because they were eaten up with envy, they tried to devour Daniel. Now, they would be devoured!
10. The king threw the two administrators and others who were involved into the lions’ den along with their families.
11. Daniel’s record is just a statement of fact, not condoning the practice. Kings of the ancient world took this approach. By taking these means, they did not have to worry about one of their family members taking vengeance. It would also teach others who might be inclined to deal treacherously.
12. The lions devoured them before they even hit the ground!
    1. Daniel’s faith was a testimony to others. (v. 25-28)
13. It was a testimony to the king and others who lived in the kingdom. He exhorted others to fear the God of Daniel for the following reasons:
14. He is the living God. This speaks of His activity in our lives.
15. He is steadfast (reliable).
16. His kingdom will not be destroyed. He is unlimited.
17. He delivers and rescues.
18. His faith would also be a testimony to those returning to Jerusalem. If God delivered the three Hebrews and Daniel, then He could help them.
19. **Application: Even in distressing situations there is reason to hope, because the same faith that brings you into conflict with the world also brings you into contact with God’s help.** 
    1. The account of Daniel teaches us that opposition will come to those who walk by faith.
    2. When your enemy forms a strategy against you, remember God has a plan for you.
    3. Determine to serve God regardless of your circumstances.
20. Serve God when you are appreciated. Daniel served God in the palace.
21. Serve God when you are attacked. Daniel also served God in the lions’ den.
    1. Live blamelessly before God and man. Be faithful!
22. Remain faithful in your old age. Daniel was in the latter years of his life at this point. Your greatest impact may still be ahead.
23. Remain faithful when you have to stand alone.
24. Remain faithful in times of change.
25. During your lifetime you will experience changes in leadership.
26. There will be changes in who leads our country, state, and city.
27. You will experience leadership changes at work.
28. We will also go through changes at church.
29. It is simply the nature of life. Remain faithful to God during these times of change. He never changes!
30. Remain faithful in the pressures of life. Daniel did not allow the pressure to push away him from the Lord. The pressure caused him to draw close to the Lord.
    1. Let the Lord deal with those who would oppose you. You will encounter individuals who are eaten up with jealousy, envy and strife. They will do their best to pull you down. God is aware of their motives and their actions. He knows how to turn the tables. Just wait on Him to act.
    2. When it seems all hope is lost, trust God to deliver.
    3. Let God use your life to be a testimony to others!