**Daniel 6**

**Main: We must obey God rather than man**

**Background**

**Israel is in captivity in what was Babylon for 70 years for violating the Mosaic Law. The seventy years in particular reflected Israel’s failure to keep the Sabbath Year, which they did seventy times, or for 490 years. Now, the Medo-Persian empire has taken over Babylon, Daniel is likely now in his eighties, and Darius the Mede is on the throne.**

**The Text of Daniel 6**

**1. Daniel 6:1-5 – The Background and the Integrity of Daniel**

**2. Daniel 6:6-23 – The Plot**

 **A. Decree #1 – 6:6-9**

 **Meant to trap Daniel**

 **B. The Response of Daniel – 6:10**

 **C. The Lions’ Den and Daniel’s Faith – 6:11-23**

**3. Daniel 6:24-28 – The Result**

 **A. Whatever became of the accusers – 6:24**

 **B. Decree #2 – 6:25-27**

 **Meant to vindicate Daniel**

 **C. Whatever became of Daniel – 6:28**

**Observations and Applications**

**1. Faith: It was Daniel’s faith that Scripture gives for Daniel’s deliverance (Dan. 6:23; Heb. 11:33).**

* **When we believe God, we do not always know the immediate outcome, but we always know the long-term outcome (Heb. 11:6, 32-40; Rom. 8:28).**
* **We also know God will never give us more than we can handle (1 Cor. 10:13).**

**2. Competency and integrity: Daniel had rule over a massive area with huge amounts of people. Daily made critical decisions, many times he would be tempted to compromise, and they couldn’t find ONE THING to catch him in something with which to accuse him. He was responsible, hardworking, faithful, and competent at his work. How about us?**

**3. Prayer: It would be difficult to think of anyone busier than Daniel. Yet, for many of us, it is difficult to get us to start praying. Daniel? they couldn’t get him to stop.**

* **For Daniel, it appears that prayer “without ceasing” involved a consistent lifestyle without extensive intervals, not continual.**
* **Daniel’s prayers were based on, and consistent with, Scripture.**

**4. Scripture: We also know here and from ch. 9 that Daniel was a man of the Word; “toward Jerusalem” … “as was his custom from his youth.” 2 Chron. 6:38-39**

**5. Discipline: We often confuse discipline with legalism. They are not the same. We sacrifice great possibilities because we are lazy. We enjoy doing things our way more than making our lives count forever and glorying God.**

**6. Courage: Daniel was submissive to the government, obviously working to make the rulers more successful. But he was not always obedient.**

* **There are times when laws are wrong. Believers are supposed to be obedient unless and until the laws directly are opposed to the express will of God for them (Acts 4:19-20; 5:29). We also need to be willing to accept the consequences of our decision.**
* **It is possible that we will be asked to stop doing things the Bible tells us to do. Daniel was a great example to Israel of a man of the Word, of prayer, and of courage. He is to us, as well**

**7. God’s approval: The Bible tells us only a few things about Daniel and one of them is that he was a man of prayer and obedience. Consider Heaven’s view of Daniel (Prov. 15:8-9; Dan. 9:23, 10:11, 19; Ezek. 14:14, 20; 28:3).**