

Intro:

Daniel 6:1-4 (AMP)

IT PLEASED [King] Darius [successor to Belshazzar] to set over the kingdom 120 satraps who should be [in charge] throughout all the kingdom, And over them three presidents—of whom Daniel was one—that these satraps might give account to them and that the king should have no loss or damage. Then this Daniel was distinguished above the presidents and the satraps because an excellent spirit was in him.

ILL: All the satraps (120) and the 2 presidents became very jealous and came up with a plan to remove Daniel from office. (TELL REST OF STORY THRU VS. 8)

A. THERE’S REASONS WHY PEOPLE ACHIEVE AND REASONS WHY THEY FAIL IN LIFE.

1. The story of Daniel is one of the greatest examples to learn from in how to become successful in life.
2. Daniel broke the mold of **AVERAGE living**.
3. He excelled in a social environment where the majority was content with the status quo.
4. “DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO GET BY” “EVERYBODY ELSE IS DOING IT”

B. WHAT SEPARATED DANIEL FROM THE MAJORITY?

1. What made Daniel a man that had **CONFIDENT FAITH**?
2. A faith that stood the test against all odds, a faith that allowed him to be the greatest in his line of work?
3. **Daniel made a decision** to live by a few principals that made him a great man of FAITH.

OBEDIENT FAITH

A. DANIEL MADE A DECISION IN ALL HE DID TO REMAIN RIGHTEOUS BEFORE GOD.

Daniel 6:3-4 (AMP)

**Excellent spirit was in him, and the king thought to set him over the whole realm. Then the presidents and satraps sought to find occasion [to bring accusation] against Daniel concerning the kingdom, but they could find no occasion or fault, for he was faithful, nor was there any error or fault found in him. **

Faith Under Fire – “That’s the Pits”

1. Daniel had an excellent spirit about him, he was faithful, no fault found in him, there were no skeletons in his closet.
2. He was a man of integrity, **HE CHOSE CHARACTER OVER COMFORT.**
3. He was known to be honorable and ethical. **Even his enemy’s found him trustworthy.**
4. **HIS CLOSET WAS CLEAN.**

B. UNFORTUNATELY, WE ARE LIVING IN A TIME WHEN IT IS EXTREMELY EASY TO COMPROMISE OUR INTEGRITY.

1. So what if I take some supplies home from the factory or have someone else punch my time card?
2. Who is going to say anything if you stretch the truth or sneak an answer on an exam or cheat on your income tax.

ILL: A LETTER WAS SENT TO THE IRS. IT STATED: "DEAR SIR, LAST YEAR WHEN I FILED MY INCOME TAX RETURN, I DELIBERATELY MISREPRESENTED MY INCOME. NOW I CANNOT SLEEP. ENCLOSED IS A CHECK FOR \$150 FOR TAXES. IF I STILL CAN'T SLEEP, I WILL GLADLY SEND YOU THE REST."

PERSISTANT FAITH

Daniel 6:9 (MSG)

King Darius signed the decree.

A. Daniel had a dilemma on his hands.

1. If he didn’t recognize the Kings new law then he would lose his job, his income, his 401k, his comfort.
2. And the worst of it all he would be thrown into the Lions Den.
3. But if he decided to follow the Kings new law and compromised his commitment to the Lord.
4. Then he would lose the Lord’s protection and direction on his life.

Daniel 6:10 (MSG)

When Daniel learned that the decree had been signed and posted, he continued to pray just as he had always done. His house had windows in the upstairs that opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he knelt there in prayer, thanking and praising his God.

Faith Under Fire – “That’s the Pits”

B. CONSIDER HOW PERSISTANT DANIEL WAS IN HIS COMMITMENT TO GOD

1. He would rather die before he would lose one single session in prayer.
2. There are many that would have said, “God you won’t mind if I miss just this one time, after all their talking about MY LIFE HERE.”

C. There was more to it than just missing one session of prayer.

1. If Daniel would have missed then Man would have had the upper hand.

2. NOW YOU TURN INTO SATAN’S LITTLE PUPPET.

LOYAL FAITH

Daniel 6:11-12 (MSG)

The conspirators came and found him praying, asking God for help. They went straight to the king and reminded him of the royal decree that he had signed.

A. The King ordered Daniel to be thrown into the Lions Den.

IN FACT COME WITH ME BACK IN DANIEL’S DAY AND LET’S SEE IF HE STILL ALIVE.

SKIT - PASTOR TAKES MIKE OUT OF STAGE PIT

VIDEO – SOUND OF LIONS

CUE – WHEN YOU SEE MIKES HEAD

MIKE – SHARES ABOUT 3 FRIENDS, HIS FAITH, AND WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THE LIONS DEN

CONCLUSION:

Hebrews 11:33 (NIV)

who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions

THROUGH FAITH SHUT THE MOUTHS OF LIONS

WHAT LIONS MOUTHS NEED TO BE SHUT UP IN YOUR LIVES TODAY

SONG - MICHELLE