

Title: Looking at Lions

Text: Daniel 6 (**God is my judge**)

Target: The Lion in you is greater than the lions surrounding you!

- I. **Your Character-Counts:** "...an **excellent spirit** was within him. And the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom." (Vs. 3)
 - A. **No Complaints:** "sought to find a ground for complaint against Daniel with regard **to the kingdom**" (Vs. 4a)
 - B. **No Faults:** "but they could find no ground for complaint or any fault, because **he was faithful**." (Vs. 4b)
 - C. **No Grounds:** "Then these men said, "We shall not find any ground for complaint against this Daniel unless we find it in **connection** with the law of his God." (Vs. 5)

Discussion Question: Read Colossians 3:12-24. In this passage, we read Paul's admonishment to the church in Colosse on the character of the "new man." Verses 23-24 conclude the passage with instruction to do everything as unto The LORD. It's almost as though Paul is recounting Daniel and his obedience and faithfulness to God to encourage the Colossians. Is there an area of your life where you need to be reminded to "work as unto The LORD?"

- II. **Your Conviction-Matters:** "When Daniel knew that the document had been signed," (Vs. 10a)
 - A. **Get Perspective:** "he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber **open toward Jerusalem**" (Vs. 10b)
 - B. **Grow Persistent:** "He got down on his knees **three times a day** and prayed (Vs. 10c)
 - C. **Give Praise:** "and **gave thanks** before his God, as he had done previously." (10d)
 - D. **Gain Provision:** "found Daniel making a **petition** and **plea** before His God." (Vs. 11)

Discussion Question: There will be times in life that your faithfulness and obedience will frustrate or infuriate others. Perhaps it reminds them of their own disobedience. Whatever the reason, your faithfulness will undoubtedly be met with ridicule and possibly even persecution. We are to live peaceably with all men and to give to Caesar that which belongs to Caesar. But our hearts and our affections belong to The LORD. Read Acts 5:22-32. Have you ever been faced with the decision to obey God rather than be concerned with the praise or adoration of men?

- III. **Your Courage-Inspires:** "Daniel was brought and cast into the den of lions. The king declared to Daniel, "May your God, whom you **serve continually**, deliver you!" (Vs. 16)
 - A. **Revelation of a Person:** "My God sent his **angel** and shut the lions' mouths, and they have not harmed me, because I was found blameless before him; and also before you, O king, I have done no harm." (Vs. 22)
 - B. **Demonstration of Protection:** "So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and **no kind of harm** was found on him, because he had trusted in God." (Vs. 23)

- C. **Proclamation of Peace:** "Peace be multiplied to you. I make a decree, that in all my royal dominion people are to **tremble** and **fear** before the God of Daniel, (Vs. 25-26)

Discussion Question: Daniel's faithfulness saved his life, turned the heart of King Darius, and led to the destruction of his detractors. Peter shares a similar situation in I Peter 3:14-16. Can you share a time in your faith journey when God "shut the mouths of the lions" in your life? Has a winsome and faithful attitude ever led anyone to ask about the hope that is in you?

for he is the living God, enduring forever; his kingdom shall never be destroyed, and his dominion shall be to the end. He delivers and rescues; he works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth, he who has saved _____ from the power of the lions. (Vs. 26b-27)

Takeaway: If God doesn't rescue you from the lion's den, he will rescue you from within the lion's den.