

Dare to Be a Daniel

Introduction

Scripture Reading: Daniel 6:4-23

1. We have all thrilled to the account of Daniel in the lion's den.
2. Because of his courage and devotion, we say, "Dare to be a Daniel!" But, deep down, do we doubt that we could be like him?
3. Let us notice some things about Daniel, which could be true of any of us. We will look in particular at verses 4 and 5.

He Was Blameless in His Conduct

1. They had to manufacture the only "fault" they could find. The only convincing accusation was in regard to that which was good and positive in his life.
2. Though "blamelessness" is not specifically mentioned in the text, this is the essence of it. In the eyes of the world, no fault worthy of being singled out for blame could be found in his life.

1 Timothy 3:2, 10 "A bishop then must be **blameless**"... "But let these also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons, being found **blameless**."

1 Peter 4:15-16 But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters. **Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian**, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter.

3. "If you were to be placed on trial for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?"
 - **Daniel's blameless conduct would not have been possible if not for the following fact:**

He Was Unblemished in His Character

1. He lived most of his life a captive in an idolatrous land, yet he remained unspotted from those things which might have contaminated him.

James 1:27 Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

2 Peter 3:11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,

2. Consider some of the influences which might have made a strong allure to him to conform to the lifestyle and worship of the Chaldeans:
 - A. The sheer strength of the conquering nation.
 - B. The temptations offered by position (1:3-5).
 - C. The kindnesses shown him by the kings (3:48; 5:29; 6:1-2).
3. It will be helpful to contrast Daniel's strength in overcoming the world with the tendency of God's people who often give in to it.
 - A. There are those Christians today who will give in to the temptation to sin, and make an excuse about the overwhelming nature of his own circumstances.

Exodus 32:21-24

 - "they are set on evil"

1 Samuel 13:11-13 And Samuel said, "What have you done?" And Saul said, "When I saw that the people were scattered from me, and that you did not come within the days appointed, and that the Philistines gathered together at Michmash, 'then I said, 'The Philistines will now come down on me at Gilgal, and I have not made supplication to the LORD.' Therefore I felt compelled, and offered a burnt offering.'" And Samuel said to Saul, "You have done foolishly. You have not kept the commandment of the LORD your God, which He commanded you. For now the LORD would have established your kingdom over Israel forever.

B. Who of us can say we have had it as hard as Daniel?

- 1) He not only overcame the enmity of his captors, he overcame the allure of their friendship!**
- 2) He not only overcame the temptations associated with being uprooted from his home, he overcame those of being made to feel at home in the land of pagans.**
- 3) The discouragements and temptations were great, but he overcame.**

1 John 5:3-5 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome. For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world--our faith. Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

{However, this would not have been possible if not for the fact that:}

He Was Unbending in His Commitment

1. The previous points were secondary to this one: this is the foundation. This is what made the others truly worthwhile in Daniel's life.
2. This commitment to God is seen in certain areas of Daniel's life.
 - A. His knowledge of and obedience to the law, as evidenced in chapter 1 in his refusal of the king's menu.

Psalms 1:1-3 Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper.

Deuteronomy 6:1-9

- B. His devotion to daily prayer, as seen in chapter 6.
- C. Seen in his practice of regular prayer despite the king's command, is his refusal to bend to anything which would threaten his loyalty to God.

3. **The trial of faith shows our commitment or lack thereof. Daniel's commitment to God was not superficial.**
 - A. **Some Christians have a "fair-weather" faith.**
 - 1) **Among the faithful, they show strength.**
 - 2) **Among the worldly, they bend to fit what is popular in order to avoid trouble.**
 - B. **We should have a firm faith as Daniel did. One which keeps our commitment to God intact, even if we must stand alone.**
Hebrews 11:24-26

Conclusion

1. **You can Dare to be a Daniel!**
2. **These three things which characterized Daniel's life are within the reach and responsibility of every one of God's children.**
3. **May we always resolve to become more like this great man of God.**

