

“DEALING WITH ADVERSITY”

Daniel 6:1-28

Tonight, I want you to think of God’s great power unleashed in what seemed to be impossible situations...

- **Noah’s Ark and the world-wide flood**
- **The angelic rescue of Lot and his daughters from Sodom and Gomorrah**
- **Gideon’s defeat of the massive Midianite army with only 300 soldiers**
- **The miraculous resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead**

Nothing is impossible with God! Daniel would second this notion, because the Lord delivered him through what appeared to be an impossible crisis. Perhaps you are in the middle of a crisis right now. It could be a crisis. . .

- **in your marriage**
- **in your career (Amazon is eliminating 30,000 jobs)**
- **with your health,**
- **with your finances.**

How are we supposed to handle these difficult, crisis moments? Open your Bible to Daniel 6. The events in this chapter occurred as the new government was being formed. Daniel has outlived the Babylonian kingdom. The **“head of gold”** has been smashed and now the **“breast and arms of silver”** are in full play (chapter 2). The Medes and the Persians were now ruling. Darius was a vice-regent under Cyrus the Great and he was given the responsibility of ruling the Babylonian kingdom. The year is approximately 538 BC. By this time some Jewish captives had returned to Palestine under the leadership of

Zerubbabel, and Daniel was over eighty years of age.¹ There is a relevant message that literally pulsates in this familiar chapter. Here it is—**“Because God is able you can have confidence in the midst of a crisis.”** If Daniel were here tonight here is the advice he would give you as you seek to battle through your own personal crisis. . .

1. LIVE WITH INTEGRITY

Daniel 6:1–3... It seemed good to Darius to appoint 120 satraps over the kingdom, that they would be in charge of the whole kingdom, 2 and over them three commissioners (of whom Daniel was one), that these satraps might be accountable to them, and that the king might not suffer loss. 3 Then this Daniel began distinguishing himself among the commissioners and satraps because he possessed an extraordinary spirit, and the king planned to appoint him over the entire kingdom.

Notice what the Scripture indicates about Daniel’s personal life. What is the most important trait of one who desires to be a difference maker in a culture that is such desperate need of difference makers? Some might say it’s intellect, insight, or intensity. Now all of those are important, but they are not the most important. I believe that the most important trait is **INTEGRITY.**

Integrity can be defined as the steadfast adherence to a moral or ethical code. It is the state or quality of being complete; the freedom from corrupting influence or motive. Integrity defines someone who is in public what he also is in private. O.S. Hawkins, Culture Shock: Advice From Daniel For Addressing Today’s Culture, pp. 164-165.

¹ Stephen R. Miller, [Daniel](#), vol. 18, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1994), 171.

The other leaders scrutinized Daniel meticulously. Everyone (even his detractors) knew he had an “extraordinary spirit.” Daniel’s integrity is highlighted throughout the book. . .

Daniel 1:8... But Daniel made up his mind that he would not defile himself with the king’s choice food or with the wine which he drank; so he sought *permission* from the commander of the officials that he might not defile himself.

Daniel 5:11–12... “There is a man in your kingdom in whom is a spirit of the holy gods; and in the days of your father, illumination, insight and wisdom like the wisdom of the gods were found in him. And King Nebuchadnezzar, your father, your father the king, appointed him chief of the magicians, conjurers, Chaldeans *and* diviners. **12** “*This was because an extraordinary spirit, knowledge and insight, interpretation of dreams, explanation of enigmas and solving of difficult problems were found in this Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar. Let Daniel now be summoned and he will declare the interpretation.*”

Daniel 9:23... “At the beginning of your supplications the command was issued, and I have come to tell *you*, for you are highly esteemed; so give heed to the message and gain understanding of the vision.”

Daniel 10:11... He said to me, “O Daniel, man of high esteem, understand the words that I am about to tell you and stand upright, for I have now been sent to you.” And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling.

Daniel 10:19... He said, “O man of high esteem, do not be afraid. Peace be with you; take courage and be courageous!” Now as soon as he spoke to me, I received strength and said, “May my lord speak, for you have strengthened me.”

Daniel 6:4-9... Then the commissioners and satraps began trying to find a ground of accusation against Daniel in regard to government affairs; but they could find no ground of accusation or *evidence of corruption*, inasmuch as he was faithful, and no negligence or corruption was *to be found* in him. 5 Then these men said, "We will not find any ground of accusation against this Daniel unless we find *it* against him with regard to the law of his God." 6 Then these commissioners and satraps came by agreement to the king and spoke to him as follows: "King Darius, live forever! 7 "All the commissioners of the kingdom, the prefects and the satraps, the high officials and the governors have consulted together that the king should establish a statute and enforce an injunction that anyone who makes a petition to any god or man besides you, O king, for thirty days, shall be cast into the lions' den. 8 "Now, O king, establish the injunction and sign the document so that it may not be changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which may not be revoked." 9 Therefore King Darius signed the document, that is, the injunction.

When the average person skims through this chapter, he/she comes away with an indelible picture in their mind. It's a picture of the aged Daniel resting comfortably among a group of docile lions. However, the real message of this chapter focuses on the conduct of Daniel before he was cast into the den of lions. The message of Daniel's integrity and the power and sovereignty of God is the primary reason this chapter has found its way into the Word of God.

Now notice Daniel's professional life. His detractors tried to dig up dirt on him in every conceivable way. They had absolutely no luck whatsoever. Oh how jealous these men were of Daniel. Bishop Sheen once said that "Jealousy is the tribute that mediocrity pays to genius." *Not only did Daniel have an excellent attitude; he also had an excellent record.*

What did these corrupt cowards do? They went to Darius with the plan to make him a *god for a month*. They conveniently said that *all of the leaders* were for the plan, though Daniel had never signed on. Darius foolishly signed the document!

Daniel 6:10-11... Now when Daniel knew that the document was signed, he entered his house (now in his roof chamber he had windows open toward Jerusalem); and he continued kneeling on his knees three times a day, praying and giving thanks before his God, as he had been doing previously. 11 Then these men came by agreement and found Daniel making petition and supplication before his God.

Knowing they could never find any corruption in Daniel's *personal life* or in his *professional life*, **they proceeded to trap him in his spiritual life.** Believe me, they knew how committed he was to God. It was his practice to pray three times a day with his window opened to Jerusalem.

Daniel simply kept his personal schedule. Consistency was his theme. He went about his prayer time as was his custom since early days. Daniel did not change one thing about his lifestyle. All he had to do to save his skin was stop praying openly and publicly for one month. He could have even been subtle about it and at least closed the windows. Or, he could have prayed in bed when his lights were off at night. He could have reasoned that God knew his heart. But Daniel was consistent. That is the mark of a man of integrity. Those who are inconsistent with convictions will never be known as people of integrity. O.S. Hawkins, Culture Shock: Advice From Daniel For Addressing Today's Culture, pp. 164-165.

Daniel's devotion to the Lord is an example for all of us to follow. . .

- **He had a set time when he prayed.**
- **He had a set posture when he prayed.**
- **He had a set place where he prayed.**

Solomon suggested what should be done among the captive Jews. . .

1 Kings 8:47-48... "If they take thought in the land where they have been taken captive, and repent and make supplication to You in the land of those who have taken them captive, saying, 'We have sinned

and have committed iniquity, we have acted wickedly'; **48** if they return to You with all their heart and with all their soul in the land of their enemies who have taken them captive, and pray to You toward their land which You have given to their fathers, the city which You have chosen, and the house which I have built for Your name."

What a spiritual giant this man Daniel was! Let me ask you, could you stand up under this kind of intense scrutiny in your personal life, your vocational life, and your spiritual life? Are you consistently committed to God? Listen, if you want to have confidence in the midst of a crisis, **you must live with integrity!**

2. BELIEVE IN GOD

Daniel 6:12–17... Then they approached and spoke before the king about the king's injunction, "Did you not sign an injunction that any man who makes a petition to any god or man besides you, O king, for thirty days, is to be cast into the lions' den?" The king replied, "The statement is true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which may not be revoked." **13** Then they answered and spoke before the king, "Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or to the injunction which you signed, but keeps making his petition three times a day." **14** Then, as soon as the king heard this statement, he was deeply distressed and set *his* mind on delivering Daniel; and even until sunset he kept exerting himself to rescue him. **15** Then these men came by agreement to the king and said to the king, "Recognize, O king, that it is a law of the Medes and Persians that no injunction or statute which the king establishes may be changed." **16** Then the king gave orders, and Daniel was brought in and cast into the lions' den. The king spoke and said to Daniel, "Your God whom you constantly serve will Himself deliver you." **17** A stone was brought and laid over the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the signet rings of his nobles, so that nothing would be changed in regard to Daniel.

Could you even begin to imagine the horror of being thrown into a den of fierce, hungry lions? Picture them prowling about in the den. Their eyes dart back and forth looking for meat. Hear their ear-splitting roars.

How did Daniel react to this sinister plot that was hatched against him? Please notice that he did not take revenge. He trusted in God. Fast forward to verse 23—***"No injury whatever was found on him, because he had trusted in his God."***

A commercial begins with a young girl standing alone in a picturesque meadow. The camera then pans to another part of the field where it shows a gigantic African rhinoceros. The ominous beast begins a lethal charge towards the girl, whose serene and happy face remains unmoved. As the rhinoceros gets closer, the words appear on the screen, **"Trust is not being afraid."** A split second before the rhino tramples the helpless child, it stops, and the girl, her smile never wavering, reaches up and pets the animal on its massive horn. The final words then appear, **"even when you are vulnerable."**

The commercial was designed to tout the abilities of an insurance company to protect its clients from the uncertainties of life. How much more does it describe the believer, who can confidently say with the psalmist, ***"I will say of the Lord, 'He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.'"***

Do you believe that God has the power to intervene in your crisis? Can you simply put your trust and faith in Him to be your rock and refuge, your present help in time of trouble? Because God is able you can have confidence in the midst of a crisis.

3. GLORIFY THE LORD

Daniel 6:18–27... Then the king went off to his palace and spent the night fasting, and no entertainment was brought before him; and his sleep fled from him. 19 Then the king arose at dawn, at the break of day, and went in haste to the lions' den. 20 When he had come near the den to Daniel, he

cried out with a troubled voice. The king spoke and said to Daniel, “Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you constantly serve, been able to deliver you from the lions?” **21** Then Daniel spoke to the king, “O king, live forever! **22** “My God sent His angel and shut the lions’ mouths and they have not harmed me, inasmuch as I was found innocent before Him; and also toward you, O king, I have committed no crime.” **23** Then the king was very pleased and gave orders for Daniel to be taken up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den and no injury whatever was found on him, because he had trusted in his God. **24** The king then gave orders, and they brought those men who had maliciously accused Daniel, and they cast them, their children and their wives into the lions’ den; and they had not reached the bottom of the den before the lions overpowered them and crushed all their bones. **25** Then Darius the king wrote to all the peoples, nations and *men of every* language who were living in all the land: “May your peace abound! **26** “I make a decree that in all the dominion of my kingdom men are to fear and tremble before the God of Daniel; For He is the living God and enduring forever, And His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed, And His dominion *will be* forever. **27** “He delivers and rescues and performs signs and wonders In heaven and on earth, Who has *also delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.*”

Let me ask you, do you believe that God is able to perform miracles that defy explanation? In this case, God sent an angel to shut the mouths of the lions. Who are angels?

Hebrews 1:14... Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?

Psalms 34:7... The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear Him, And rescues them.

Daniel was not in the lion’s den because he did something wrong. He was in there because he did something right and noble. Notice how Daniel glorifies the Lord (22-23). Once again, Daniel’s impeccable integrity shines through. He said plainly and clearly that God had moved in a supernatural way to protect His servant because HE TRUSTED THE LORD.

Notice how Darius glorifies the Lord. First, he punishes the corrupt officials who set the trap for Daniel (24). Second, he proclaimed God's greatness to the nations through a proclamation. So far, we have seen Nebuchadnezzar and now Darius do this. Glory to God—HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD!

You have a choice in the middle of a crisis. You can focus all your energy on the cause of the crisis and bemoan the fact that you are in the situation. Or, you can focus on the answer to the crisis and put all your energy into glorifying your God. I pray you will choose the latter option. Listen, because God is able you can have confidence in the midst of a crisis.

4. ENJOY THE SUCCESS

Daniel 6:28... So this Daniel enjoyed success in the reign of Darius and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

Here is Daniel a very old man. But he had not lost anything spiritually. He was God's man for the hour. Because he had honored God, God honored him. He finished well.

1 Samuel 2:30... "Therefore the LORD God of Israel declares, 'I did indeed say that your house and the house of your father should walk before Me forever'; but now the LORD declares, 'Far be it from Me—for those who honor Me I will honor, and those who despise Me will be lightly esteemed.

You must learn to enjoy the success God allows you to have. You can have confidence in the midst of a crisis. Here's what you must do. . .

Live with integrity.

Believe in God.

Glorify the Lord.

Enjoy the success.

