

Regardless of the Consequences

“And when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; (now his windows were open in his chamber toward Jerusalem;) and he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime” (Daniel 6:10).

The situation in which Daniel found himself, was one devised by his enemies. Daniel “was distinguished above the presidents and the satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm” (Daniel 6:3). The advancement of Daniel generated a vindictive spirit in the presidents and satraps. They, therefore, “sought to find occasion against Daniel as touching the kingdom” (vs. 4), they were looking for some fault in him, where they could accuse him of villainy against the king. However, “they could find no occasion nor fault, forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him” (vs. 4).

So, the presidents and satraps said, “We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find it against him concerning the law of his God” (vs. 5). The presidents and satraps devised a plan, and had the king sign “a royal statute, and to make a strong interdict, that whosoever shall ask a petition of any god or man for thirty days, save of thee, O king, he shall be cast into the den of lions” (vs.7). “Wherefore king Darius signed the writing and the interdict” (vs. 9).

As the scriptures tell us, “when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house...and he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.” The men who devised this mischief against Daniel were well aware of Daniel’s practices, and used them against him. Nevertheless, Daniel, just as he was faithful in his duties to the king, was also faithful before his God, and recognized, as the apostles did, when charged by the high priest and Sadducees, saying, “We strictly charged you not to teach in his name: and behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and intend to bring this man’s blood

upon us” (Acts 5:28), Peter and the apostles answered and said, “We must obey God rather than men” (vs. 29).

There are two areas of Daniel’s life that need to be considered: (1) His faithfulness to the king, in matters that did not contradict his faithfulness to God, and (2) his faithfulness to God in light of the consequences of civil disobedience. Daniel’s devotion to God was well known. His prayer life was well known, and his moral courage was well known. Daniel’s life was so transparent, and his moral courage so predetermined, that his enemies were assured of a victory: albeit, short lived. Could the same be said of your prayer life, i.e., do you have predetermined times of prayer, and has your moral courage been previously manifested?

Remember the end result of those who opposed God’s people: “Then the king arose very early in the morning, and went in haste unto the den of lions. And when he came near unto the den to Daniel, he cried, with a lamentable voice; the king spake and said to Daniel, O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions? Then said Daniel unto the king, O king, live for ever. My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions’ mouths, and they have not hurt me; forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt. Then was the king exceeding glad...And the king commanded and they brought those men that had accused Daniel, and they cast them into the den of lions, them, their children, and their wives; and the lions had the mastery of them, and brake all their bones in pieces, before they came to the bottom of the den” (vs. 19-24). Kind of makes you wonder about bracing the children of God, now doesn’t it? ret