



Before Matters More (*Daniel 6*)

This week we begin our Legendary God series. The series will focus on what we discover about our all-merciful, gracious, majestic, sovereign, all powerful God through the stories preserved for us in the OT. This Sunday we look at the familiar and famous story of Daniel and the Lion's Den. This incredible story exposes some things about us and about our great God.

It reveals that it's easy for us to look at the outcomes of our decisions and know if we've won. But the bigger win happens before you even know the outcome. Right and wrong are not defined by what happens as a result. The reality is, often when we choose to do the right thing, the immediate results are less than ideal and leave us unsatisfied unless our motivation behind the decision allows us to have confidence that God's blessing, his favor, and his protection are afforded us when we choose to do what is right and leave the consequences up to Him.

God's power, God's grace, and God's blessings are assured, but the immediate aftermath of our choices don't always offer evidence of that. This extraordinary story also reveals the power and authority of our God that makes Him worthy of our worship and our obedience even when the outcomes are not in our "favor".

Scripture Focus

At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions' den. When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?" Daniel answered, "May the king live forever! My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, Your Majesty." The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den. And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.

Daniel 6:19-23

Discussion Questions

Getting Started

- Have you ever lost or passed on an opportunity because of a breach of integrity in your past?
- Have you ever done the wrong thing anticipating a positive outcome only to be disappointed? How about the other way around?

Study Read Daniel 6:1–23.

- What stands out to you?
- What is it about Daniel's actions and reputation that you admire?
- If you were in Daniel's shoes, what do you think you would have done? What makes you say that?
- What is true about God that makes Daniel's decision right even if he was eaten by the lions?
- What does faith require of us to make decisions based on the character of God rather than the anticipation of an outcome?

Respond

- We are prone to determine the wins and losses of our decisions by looking at outcomes. The greatest wins come when we make decisions independent of the outcomes.
- God is trustworthy enough to simply choose to obey and leave the consequences to Him.
- The integrity of the upright guides them, but the unfaithful are destroyed by their duplicity. Pro 11:3

Apply

- Describe a situation where you had to make a decision that you knew was going to cost you in some way and how you were able to make the right decision.
- In what area of your life do you need to make a decision now, even if the outcome will hurt you?

