

Talk Notes

1. Integrity (v1–5)

2. Corruption (6–9)

3. Business as usual (v10–11)

4. Salvation (v12–23)

5. Glory to God! (v24–28)

Applications

a) Prayer

b) Civil obedience and disobedience

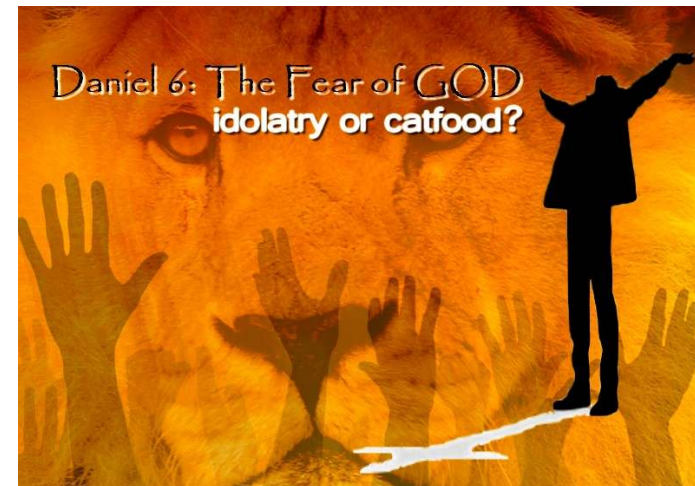
c) Looking to Jesus

Question Time

The Book of Daniel

chapter 6

The fear of God: Idolatry or cat food?



Introduction

So far we have seen God's rule over all the nations of the world. He shows it by humbling the kings of Babylon and uses Daniel and his friends as his messengers. What kind of challenges do Daniel and his friends face this time? What does it show us about God?

Opening discussion

Have you faced any opposition because you were a Christian? Why? Why not?

Read the passage: *Daniel 6*.

Episode 1 (v1–5). Setting up the story.

- How would you describe Daniel's character and relationship with God?
- How would you describe Daniel's relationship with the other administrators?
- Why was it necessary for Daniel's enemies to use religious reasons to accuse him?

Summary: Where is God in this episode and what is His role?

Episode 2 (v6–9). The conspiracy.

- How would you describe Darius' character and opinions about himself?
- How would you describe Darius' relationship with God?
- Why was it so easy for the governors to manipulate (trick) Darius?

Summary: Where is God in this episode and what is His role?

Episode 3 (v10–16). The scandal and outrage.

- Why was Daniel not more discreet (more careful) about praying?
- Why did Darius regret his actions and why couldn't he save the situation?

Summary: Where is God in this episode and what is His role?

Episode 4 (v17–22).

- How did God rescue Daniel?
- What is incredible about this episode?
- How did God change the situation by saving Daniel?

Summary: Where is God in this episode and what is His role?

Episode 5 (v23–28).

- What happened to Daniel's accusers?
- How did Daniel's situation change?
- In what way did Darius change his mind about God?

Summary: Where is God in this episode and what changed?

Write down the summary for each of the episode: What is the plot of this story?

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Meaning and Relevance

How public is your confession of Christ?

Do people in your course or department know that you are Christian? Why? Why Not? Explain your answer.

How often do you face opposition for being a Christian? Explain your answer.

How much 'noise' should you make about your faith to people in your workplace or in your community?