

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

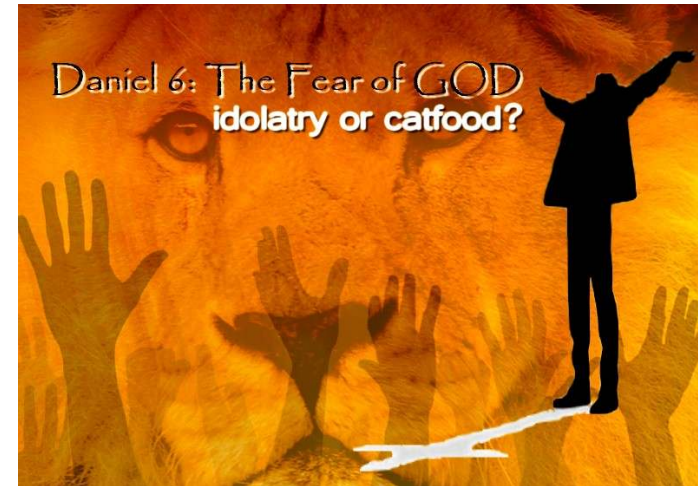
c) Looking to Jesus

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

Are there any situations that you would be willing to stand up or face opposition?

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?

Meaning and Relevance

During the Roman empire (~500 years after Daniel's time) many Christians were punished for being loyal to Jesus instead of the Roman emperor. Like Daniel, many Christians had to face lions because of their faith. Unlike Daniel and his friends who were saved, many Christians were eaten by lions. There is NO guarantee in the Bible that God will save Daniel or Christians from danger but that did not prevent them from being willing to suffer for Jesus' name.

What is your opinion of people who disobey their government because of their beliefs?

When do you think we should obey our government, and when should we disobey?

How important are your spiritual beliefs to you? Are they worth suffering for?