

The story of Daniel and the lions' den has been told and retold for centuries. It is such a simple story for children to understand, demonstrating that God is close to us always and even in our darkest times and places of great fear. It's a beautiful story BUT, did you notice how it tends to get edited? I don't remember being told as a child the bit about all of Daniel's accusers and what happens at the end. And people say the Romans were cruel! The nature of human beings rarely changes and absolute power still corrupts even today. Simply look at certain world leaders for confirmation – no names, there are plenty to choose.

Darius/Cyrus was trapped into a position of his own making brought about by his own vanity.

Have you ever found yourself in a difficult situation whereby you were going to upset someone you loved because of something you have promised?

Read Daniel 6.

1. Jealousy is an insidious emotion and causes immense pain, usually to others as in this story, and sometimes, remorse. Try to recall an event that brought about true remorse and forgiveness. Why was that?
2. What parallels can you find between Nebuchadnezzar and Darius? What are the differences?

3. Why do you think it is that powerful people seem so susceptible to flattery? Personally, I get suspicious. How do you respond to flattery?

4. Read verses 8-9 again. Why do you think the 'written law' could not be altered? Is that still true today? How would that be different to what Jesus teaches us? [See Matt 5:17 e.g.]

5. Look again at Verse 14. It is clear that Darius realises that he has been trapped. What is the difference between his actions and those of Jesus? [See Jn. 8:3-6 e.g.]

6. Verse 21 gives an insight into Daniel's character, faith and position at court. How hard is it to juggle life and faith before non-Christians?

7. What do we see of Jesus and the gospel story in these verses?

8. Jesus made the astounding claim, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me' (John 14:6). Many people think that all religions lead to God and there are simply different ways of getting there. Can this idea be reconciled with Jesus' claim? How would you respond to someone who thought Jesus was just another way to God among many?

Prayer Points

Pray for Mary as she prepares for her baptism next week.

Pray for those who serve on Sundays in making everything happen as we gather together.

Give thanks for our Nepalese partner Human Development and Community Services (HDCS), supporting communities continuing to recover from last November's earthquake in the remote West Rukum district.

Sermon Notes



BIBLE STUDY

October 20th 2024

Defiant Faith: Faith in the Fire

Liars, Laws and Lions

Daniel 6

The book of Daniel tells Daniel's story—and a fascinating and instructive story it is. But the main purpose of Daniel is to reveal to us who God is - His character, His purposes, His way of working in the world for the good of His people. The main lesson of Daniel, then, is not, as is sometimes assumed *Dare to be a Daniel!* Rather, the main point is this: *Dare to trust in Daniel's God, even when the world seems against you.* How do we remain faithful to God, especially in an age where it seems a great deal is moving in a different direction? What does it look like to trust in God when our world is turned upside down? Daniel remained faithful and God used him to great effect, how can God use us in the fiery challenges of life?

If you would like to join a Connect Group, please contact the church office 01424 730001