

Daniels More Excellent Spirit (Zulu/english)

by Erlo Stegen

Having the right spirit and being faithful in all aspects of life is crucial for living a victorious life and pleasing God.

Duration: 1:24:49

Scripture: Daniel 3:25, Daniel 6:4, Daniel 6:10, Daniel 6:16, Daniel 6:22, Daniel 6:26, Luke 16:10

Topics: "Daniel"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher discusses the story of Daniel and how he remained faithful to God despite facing opposition and pressure from others. The preacher emphasizes the importance of not being short-sighted and being able to see beyond immediate circumstances. He encourages the audience to learn from Daniel's example and ensure that their past, present, and future are in order before facing any challenges or the end of their lives. The preacher also challenges the audience to examine their own lives and determine if they possess the same spirit of faith and determination as Daniel.

Transcript

I'd like to speak about Daniel. An amazing person who came across many things, many waves, but he was able to ride those waves. He was a man who was able to ride the waves, and he came across many things, but he was able to ride those waves.

He was able to ride those waves. If we want to live a life like that, we can learn a lot from him and we need to learn from him. And if we want to live like that, we must make sure that the past has been put in order and the current and the future, and that we make sure that whatever problem we meet up with in the future, and even ultimately death or the Lord's return, that we make sure that things are right before we even get there.

And I'd like to speak about the story where he was thrown into the den. Now, we should actually read the whole sixth chapter of Daniel, but we'll just select certain verses. Verse 19.

Then the king arose with the dawn at the break of day and went in haste to the lion's den. And when he had come near the den to Daniel, he cried out with a troubled voice. The king spoke and said to Daniel, Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you constantly serve, been able to deliver you from the lions? Then Daniel's Then Daniel spoke to the king.

O king, live forever. My God sent his angel and shut the lions' mouths, and they have not harmed me inasmuch as I was found innocent before him. And also toward you, O king, I have committed no crime.

Then the king was very pleased and gave orders for Daniel to be taken up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den and no injury whatever was found on him because he had trusted in his God. Then the king gave orders and they brought those men who had maliciously accused Daniel and they cast them, their children and their wives into the lion's den.

And they have not reached the bottom of the den before the lions overpowered them and crushed all their bones. Then Darius the king wrote to all the peoples, nations and men of every language who were living in all the land. May your peace abound.

I make a decree that in all the dominion of my kingdom men are to fear and tremble before the God of Daniel, for he is the living God and enduring forever. And his kingdom is one which will not be destroyed and his dominion will be forever. We will stop reading there.

Now here we are during the reign of Darius. He was the king of the Medes and Persians. He was the king of the Persians.

That was after the reign of Belshazzar. Remember that king who while he was feasting that hand appeared and wrote on the wall, where he was told that he had been weighed in the balances and had been found wanting. And that his kingdom had been divided and given over to the Medes and Persians.

So Darius became king thereafter. And during his reign he divided up his kingdom into different provinces, 120 of them, and made different people responsible. Now you can just compare it in South Africa.

We've just got a few provinces. There were 120 and he reigned over all of them. Now before we continue, let's pray again.

Now we pray, Lord, that through your holy living word, you would work in our hearts. Help us, Lord, because if we want our present and our future to be right, then everything must be right, even the past. Now please speak to us, be in our midst.

Amen. So then he appointed his 120 satraps, the people that were responsible for the provinces. And over these 120 men, he placed three commissioners.

Oh, there's a commissioner there. Yes. Here it says presidents, three presidents.

And these men were appointed and the satraps were accountable to them so that the king might not suffer any loss. So then he appointed three commissioners. And these men were accountable to them so that the king might not suffer any loss.

So then he appointed three commissioners. And these men were accountable to them so that the king might not suffer any loss. So these men were appointed because they had realized that there was a risk that something could go lost, especially financially, where money could go lost.

And you know what money means to people. So they were appointed so that nothing would go lost. And once they started with their work, it was soon found that Daniel outperformed all of them.

And that included the other two commissioners or presidents and the 120 governors of the provinces. It soon became evident to the king that Daniel's life was of a higher standard and also his work was of a higher standard than all the others. And it said it was because of the spirit that was in him.

So that's the first point I want us to take note of, that people that are around us, that are with us, they notice what kind of spirit is in us. No matter what kind of a job you are given to do, even if it's an important job, but if the spirit within you is not the right spirit, things won't go well. If you want to be a good influence and that your life brings life to those around you, then you need to have the right spirit.

You cannot be in a high place if the spirit within you isn't that. And then when they noticed that this person had a higher job, better job, and also the spirit within him was a different spirit, like a higher spirit, was better, something that they didn't have, then they became jealous. And because of their jealousy, they started looking for something which they could blame in his life, some mistake, something wrong in his life which they could point out and accuse him of.

So they looked for a ground of accusation, something that they could blame him for regarding the kingdom, something which he had done wrong. But they could find no ground of accusation or evidence of corruption. As we read in verse 4, they could find no ground of accusation or evidence of corruption in as much as he was faithful.

No negligence or corruption was found in him. And that's what we need to learn as well, that the enemy will never find something which is wrong in our lives. For the devil finds power over us because of the wrong things that we do.

We will not overcome if any blame is found in us. If you want to live a victorious life, make sure that no blame, no spot is found in your life. They had one investigation after the other, investigated all he did, even the books, everything, but they could find nothing wrong.

The Lord said that if we aren't faithful even with money, the Lord will not give us the gift of His Spirit. The Lord said that if we aren't faithful even with money, the Lord will not give us the gift of His Spirit. So we need to test and check whether we have been faithful and are faithful in financial matters, because we could pray for the Lord to bless us, but the Lord says He cannot bless us even with the spiritual things if we are not faithful with the earthly amendment, which is money.

Now we could delve deeper into that, but we want to cover the whole chapter, so this is just a point I'm mentioning in passing. But an important point, we need to be sure that we do not have any blame regarding financial matters. Remember the Lord said that on judgment day you will be thrown into that prison and you won't get out until you've paid the last farthing, the last cent.

So be sure that regarding financial matters, your record is clear. So they investigated everything, his whole life, from A to Z, and they found nothing that they could blame him for. Now tell me, you boy, you girl, it still goes to school maybe, or you older person, you're married maybe, maybe you're a widow, a widower, tell me, if everything had to be investigated in your life, would your life also be blameless? Before God, and even before the devil.

Before God, and even before the devil. Remember the seven sons of Sceva, when they went and tried to do things that Paul was doing, and the devil was not impressed. And the demons said, we know the Lord, Jesus, we know Paul, but who are you? And those men fled, naked and injured, because their lives

weren't right, even the devil wasn't impressed with them.

Eventually, Daniel's enemy said, but we'll never forgive you for what you've done. We'll never find anything to blame in his life, unless it has to do with the law of his God, with his faith. And they said, well, let's set a trap for him there.

And they said, well, we know that he prays three times to his God, in the morning at nine, at midday, and at three in the afternoon. Now we've looked at his life, but now we're looking at the life of the government of that time, all the people in his government. So they, as the government, decided, let's go to the king and get this law passed, that for 30 days, no one's allowed to pray to any other god other than to the king.

And if you ask anything, you have to ask it of the king, no other god. It's actually a joke. Something like this reveals their stupidity, their foolishness.

It's actually a joke. Something like this reveals their stupidity, their foolishness. And it wasn't only that you weren't allowed to make a petition or a request from any other god, but even from no other man, now imagine, even a child, if it wanted to eat something, it wasn't allowed to ask the mother anymore, it had to go to the king and ask for something to eat.

How can you go for 30 days, a whole nation, not asking? How can you go for 30 days, a whole nation, not asking? That's what it's like in politics. Here they go to the king, they say everyone has agreed unanimously, but they hadn't, for Daniel would surely not have agreed to it, either they decided while he wasn't there, or if he was there they just overruled him. And then the king, oh my, one can only have pity for such a man, he was very short-sighted and obviously saw the short-term benefits of it, thinking that now he would be the greatest.

He should have also agreed. He should have also agreed. It's a shame and a pity when one has a king like Darius who couldn't even think clearly.

Imagine him accepting such a ridiculous thing. Imagine him accepting such a ridiculous thing. Imagine him accepting such a ridiculous thing.

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Imagine him accepting such a ridiculous thing. Imagine him that people could be in danger and even Daniel, but because they said any God or man, the way they presented it, it confused the king and he accepted it. Some people can't even write A, B, C, they can't even write even that, but they could go and rob a bank.

In evil they are very good. And they just have the cleverness, the wisdom of demons, but that's no wisdom, that's foolishness. So the king signed.

He was happy. They'd honored him. They had put him high on his throne.

and he prayed.

He didn't say, oh well, I'll close the windows, make sure no one notices, I'll do it in secret. No, he did it openly. He lived his faith openly.

Tell me, what kind of a Christian are you? Are you a genuine one or is it just a game? So these men were happy. They had achieved what they'd set out, this big parliament. Now here in our country we've got one president.

In that time, in that kingdom, there were three. So this important parliament, as important as it was and as great as it was, they went and they quickly went to the King and they said, oh King, we found Daniel praying and oh how disappointed he was. And he wanted to change it.

They said, sorry oh King, you cannot change what you've signed. And though the King tried, they said, but you cannot change it. We've signed it, you've signed it, he's broken the law, he needs to be thrown into the lion's den.

The King was greatly distressed and he wondered, all day he was wondering and he thought this way and that to try and get him to save Daniel because he knew what Daniel meant to him and what he meant in his kingdom. And at mealtimes and in the evening they brought the King all his kingly food, his royal food, the best they could bring with pudding and everything, had a wonderful aroma but he shook his head, he said, I don't want to eat anything. He couldn't eat.

Even all the royal entertainment that was always made for him, he didn't want anything of it. And then these members of Parliament put more and more pressure on the King to throw Daniel into the lion's den, not realizing that while they were fighting to have him thrown in today, they would be thrown in the next day with their wives and children. So don't be short-sighted, like someone who can only see something very close by, some people only as close as their nose, they can't see further than the tip of their nose and some people's noses are quite long and yet they don't think that's not very far.

But that doesn't help, you dare not be so short-sighted. Many people that have left the right road were short-sighted. They didn't think what's going to happen to our children, where will our children be tomorrow, what will happen to them.

They never thought of that. A person who doesn't think what his decision will bring upon him in the future, such a person is a fool. And I call him the biggest fool of all fools, the biggest fool of all fools.

Pray that God will enlighten you, open your eyes, don't live just for today, look at tomorrow. Even you children, school children, yes you are still children but at least learn from those that have gone ahead, who have had the experience. So there was this King Darius who had no roots, he was not steadfast, as I said he was also short-sighted.

He couldn't think very far, like someone who never went to school and yet again there are those that go to school who are just the same, they can't think very far. He regretted what he had done, he couldn't forgive himself, so they've got to forgive themselves. Forget about forgiving yourself, confess your sin to God and he'll forgive.

And he saw that he had no way out so he ordered that Daniel be brought to him. And the King spoke to Daniel and said, oh Daniel, Daniel, servant of the living God, will God be able to save you from these lions,

you who serve God constantly? Even the King knew Daniel to be someone who served the Lord constantly, consistently, not serving him now, the next thing not, and then again, and then not again, but no, he was known to be one who served him consistently. He was known to be upright and faithful.

So they took Daniel, threw him into the lion's den and covered it with a big stone. And the entrance of the den was sealed with the King's own ring and with the rings of all his nobles. Amazing.

It's amazing how it's also symbolic of the grave of our Lord Jesus, that tomb which was also covered with a big stone and sealed with that with that seal of the ruler of that time and how the Lord after three days rose again. Well that night the King couldn't sleep. He didn't want to be disturbed.

He didn't have time for his wife or for anyone. Early the next morning while everyone was still the King couldn't sleep. He got up, he went to the den and he called out with a troubled voice, Daniel, servant of the Living God, has your God whom you constantly serve been able to deliver you from the lions? And Daniel spoke to the King and said, oh King, live forever, said, oh King, God has sent his angels and shut the lion's mouth.

They haven't harmed me. I wonder if that angel wasn't the same angel that God sent when Daniel's friends were thrown into the fiery furnace where the King and the others looked and he said, but we only threw three people into the fiery furnace. Now we see four and the fourth looks like the Son of Man.

It was Jesus himself. Could it be the same angel? I say I don't know but I wouldn't be surprised at all. If the genuine children of the Lord are in trouble, Jesus is there with them.

And when the King heard Daniel's voice, he rejoiced greatly. And the King gave orders that Daniel be taken out of the den immediately and then he gave further orders that all the men, all those people who had gone against David and had said he should be thrown into the den, that they should be taken with their wives and children and thrown into the den. What had come across Darius? The previous day he was afraid.

Now suddenly he wasn't asking any more questions, asking anyone for advice. He just gave orders that stone should be removed, the seal should be removed, he should be taken out, giving orders left and right. And those that had accused Daniel, they were rounded up.

Daniel was taken out. They were thrown in. You see that it doesn't pay to go against the Lord and his people and against the faith.

They said and he said bring also their wives. Now what did they have to do with it? Well they deserved their punishment because they were party to the crime. They supported their husbands while they did what they did.

They didn't try and stop them from doing it. And you wives need to live godly lives like God expects it. Otherwise you'll drive your husband away from you.

He'll go to other woman, he'll bring AIDS back to you and you will die maybe even before he does. Teach your husband that they should be able to also think further and not be short-sighted. And their children as well.

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