



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions Aliens in a Strange Land Series, Lesson 26

Lesson Title: Daniel and the Lions' Den

Take Home Point: Remain faithful, God will take care of you.

Warm-Up:

In the months preceding January 1986, the Space Shuttle *Challenger* was carefully prepared for launch. Computer systems were verified, the spacecraft and launch vehicle were checked out, ground and shuttle crews were trained, and the mission payload was placed in the cargo bay. Everything was ready. Everyone understood the importance of every piece being absolutely ready and working exactly as designed. Everyone understood that human lives could be in jeopardy unless meticulous care was taken in every step of preparation. But as we all know, the shuttle was destroyed in an explosion during the launch because of one component that failed under stressful conditions. It didn't matter how strong all the other parts were or how complete the preparations; the crew and the ship were lost and the mission failed because of the weakness of one small part.

Read: Daniel 6; Romans 12:19b

Observation (What happened?):

Why couldn't the other satraps and administrators trap Daniel in wrongdoing or negligence?

What did King Darius do in his joy and happiness in Daniel's miraculous rescue?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

What motivated Daniel to his standard of unimpeachable conduct?

What did the king demonstrate when he went to the lions' den at first light?

Insight:

As you read the Bible, it becomes obvious that the God revealed in its pages is the God of the impossible. The rescue of Daniel from the hungry lions is one of many "impossible" acts that God performed. In fact, the word "impossible" loses its meaning when we consider what God can do. Remember Israel's release from Egypt, crossing the Red Sea, capturing Jericho, Elijah on Mt. Carmel, Lazarus raised from the dead, the birth and resurrection of Jesus, the many healings Jesus performed, and his feeding the thousands. The God who did these things is the same God now and forever! (Read Psalm 102:25-27 and Hebrews 13:8.) But also remember that all these things were done in God's timing, not the timing of the people involved. What if Daniel had allowed fear to take place of his trust in his Almighty God and had stopped praying for the 30 days? Trusting his own human wisdom would have meant a lost opportunity to send the king's witness to God's faithfulness to the entire Persian Empire. As someone once said, "In his time, God makes all things beautiful; in our time, we can really foul it up!"

Application (What does it mean to me?):

What does it mean to you to not "repay anyone evil for evil?" What are you doing to avoid this?

Think of one person with whom you can share a specific incident of God's faithfulness during the coming week.

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