

Title: Daniel: The Man Who Wouldn't Close His Windows

Scripture: Daniel 6:10

Speaker: Vic Redding

Event: Sunday Evening Service

Date: June 29, 2014

Daniel 6:10 *"Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime."*

Preacher opened with a quote from the 1964 Tokyo Olympics – It's not the triumph, it's the struggle.

Daniel was a prophet who fought well. He faced many obstacles during his time. He kept his integrity the entire time. Satan tries to get us so discouraged that we don't fight well. Daniel stayed encouraged. Daniel had been taken into Babylonian captivity. God favored him because Daniel sought not to defile God. Daniel had been promoted among all the men but he was still captive. The other men who had grown up there got jealous because of this. They came together and tried to bring him down. They tried to make him fall and fall greatly. This was all over jealousy. This little word can create a whole bunch of trouble in a church. Their anger wasn't directed to the king, it was Daniel. These men knew three things:

1. They knew the king would not break his decree. The decree stated that you couldn't bow to anyone else other than king Darius for 30 days.
2. They knew that Daniel would never betray his faith (see verses 4 and 5).
3. They felt like they were going to get the job done and it wouldn't happen again due to the circumstances of the punishment for breaking the decree.

Things about Daniel that we can see in this scripture:

1. We see his great wisdom: (verse 10) Daniel knew that this decree was put in order. *"He knew that the writing was signed"*. This isn't the first time that Daniel went home. In chapter 2 Nebuchadnezzar had a dream and asked for an interpretation. Daniel was included in this group of men that were supposed to advise him. Daniel went home and asked Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to pray, and they prayed. Wisdom dictates that if we are going to be the kind of Christian we should be, we need to pray. Matthew 14, Mark 6, Luke 9, Luke 22, John 18 all mention Jesus getting away to pray. Our biggest trouble comes when we don't have our own place to get away and pray. We need to be able to get away from distractions and things that keep our minds occupied.
2. We see his great courage: (verse 10) *"and his windows being open"* Do you think Daniel saw those open windows and heard a voice saying "pull the curtains" so he wouldn't be seen? If they knew he was praying to his God, he would be punished. Our enemies are always watching us waiting for us to fall. Daniel's courage was exemplified when he didn't close those windows. If he had closed them the following things could have happened:
 - a. He would lose his testimony. He prayed 3 times a day, so people knew he prayed. If he stopped, they would know.
 - b. He would have displeased God. He would have been disobedient.
 - c. His prayers would have been hindered.

In II Timothy 1:7 Paul gave advice to Timothy saying *"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."*

To Daniel, it would be better to die in the sunshine than to die in the shadows. Jesus addressed fear in Matthew 10:28 *"And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."*

3. We see his great faith: (verse 10) *"being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem"* There was one window there where he could see his home – Jerusalem. This window served a greater purpose than allowing air to pass

through. It represented his family, his home, where he was raised. He knew that after his captivity that he would be able to go home. Romans 8:18 says *“For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.”* Many people wonder how we continue to serve during times of trouble. They don’t keep in mind that they get to go *home*.

4. We see his great humility: (verse 10) *“he kneeled upon his knees”*. Daniel was in a place of power but he didn’t think that he was too great to bow down to God. Daniel kneeled to show reverence to God. When we pray we don’t have to physically bow, but our hearts must be in the position of kneeling. Daniel kneeled at the feet of God and it produced this thought: Daniel’s greatness was born on his knees. Daniel was who he was because he kneeled. We all must get on our knees and acknowledge that all we have is due to Him. We need to be humble. Without Him, we can’t breathe. We can’t get up the next morning without him. We can’t do a thing without him. Our whole lives should revolve around Him. Hebrews 4:16 says *“Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”*
5. We see his persistence: (verse 10) *“he kneeled upon his knees three times a day.”* Daniel’s prayer life wasn’t just a phase in his life. He did it faithfully and earnestly. I Thessalonians 5:17 says *“Pray without ceasing”*. Sin prevents us from being in an attitude of prayer. Daniel prayed three times each day. How long do we pray? In Daniel 10 it mentions that he prayed for three weeks about the same thing. God heard him the first time that he prayed. If Daniel had to pray for three months he would’ve. He didn’t stop until he got an answer. Do your prayer requests stop short of an answer? Do you stop praying when you don’t get an answer real quick? Sometimes we have to wait although we don’t like it. Lay hold to the throne of God. He WILL answer.
6. We see his great gratitude: (verse 10) *“and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.”* The word aforetime meant that he was praying to God before the troubles came. He was thankful for several things (we should use them as examples in our own prayer lives as well):
 - a. He was thankful for past mercies. He was reminded of the things God had brought him from before.
 - b. He was thankful for the peace of mind that he had. He knew he was getting ready to be fed to the lions. He knew that he would stand for the same thing no matter what his situation. He would be with God no matter what.
 - c. He was thankful for future deliverance. He trusted that God would get him through whatever came about.

Jesus Christ is our window. Do not do anything that will shut him out of your life.