**19 – Devotion of Daniel**

*Daniel 6:4-10; Luke 12:4-7*

* Babylon takes over Jerusalem **(cf. 1:1-2)**. (Nebuchadnezzar is king)
  + Belshazzar (gap of about 23 yrs between he and Nebuchadnezzar) reigns as King **(cf. 5)**.
* Darius the Mede takes over Babylon **(cf. 5:30-31)**.
  + **(cf. 6:1-3)** – Darius set Daniel over the other two governors, and all the satraps.
  + Daniel had ***“an excellent spirit in him” (v. 3)***.
    - God was with Daniel. He gave Him the favor before the different Kings, and thus set him in noble positions.
    - Daniel was able to interpret dreams, and messages given by God.
    - **God was with Daniel because Daniel was obedient (devoted) to God.**

**Devotion of Daniel**

* **(6:10)** – This Daniel did with the knowledge of the decree. He was not going to stop serving God.
  + His devotion started at a young age, and continued – (**1:8** – Nebuchadnezzar was to give them his delicacies and wine, and train them to see who would serve him).
    - Jews had strict laws about what they ate. Daniel was not willing to change to please men.
    - ***“purposed in his heart”*** – determined that, no matter the circumstances, he would follow God, and not man.
  + Prayed – Daniel knew that petitioning his God was necessary to remain faithful, and to be successful.
    - Prayer shows ***faith in God*** (**cf. James 1:5-7; 5:13-18**). (Shows devotion to God.)
    - Prayer acknowledges ***dependency upon God*** (**cf. Matthew 6:8b; 7:7-12**). (Shows devotion to God.)
    - Prayer acknowledges that ***God is in control*** (**cf. Daniel 5:21** – An overwhelming theme in Daniel is that God is in control; **Romans 13:1**). (Shows devotion to God.)
      * **Colossians 1:17** – Things do not thrive without Jesus Who ***“uphold[s] all things by the word of His power” (Hebrews 1:3)***.
      * ***Acts 17:28 – “in Him we live and move and have our being”***
      * Gamaliel’s logic was sound – **Acts 5:38-39**
  + Gave thanks – Daniel did not take his blessings for granted, nor did he ever suppose they were merited, but thanked God continually for these things.
    - **In addition to being created to serve God, Daniel served him for what God had done for him. In this he continually thanked God.**
    - This, in contrast to the gentiles in Romans 1, is very beneficial – **Romans 1:21**
* Daniel’s devotion to God rested on two things:
  + As God’s creation, Daniel owed Him his life **(cf. Ecclesiastes 12:13)**.
  + Acknowledging God’s faithfulness, and promise to the obedient, Daniel trusted that any result of following God was purely positive in the end (**cf. Luke 12:4-7** – *God cares for His children, and will never forget them*; **Daniel 12:13** – *He would be rewarded*.)
    - Like his friends, Daniel did not allow physical circumstances to change his views toward God – **Daniel 3:17-18**.

**Effects of Daniel’s Devotion**

* ***God noticed***. (**cf. Daniel 6:3** – This was God’s doing; **1:9, 15, 20-21**).
  + **Matthew 6:1-4, 6** – We are to do good in order to serve and please God, not man. It doesn’t matter where we are, or who else sees us, God always sees us.
  + **Hebrews 4:13** – In context of falling away, but still true with regard to good.
  + **Hebrews 6:9-10** – God sees, and does not forget, the good we do in His name.
    - **Colossians 3:17** – notice, like Daniel, we are to give thanks in our process of obedience, knowing the blessing that comes with such participation, and the favor God bestows.
* ***People noticed and tried to injure or harm***. (**cf. Daniel 6:4-5** – Also recognize blamelessness.)
  + **Matthew 5:13-16** – In our obedience, God is manifest to the world, and glorified.
    - This is different than chapter 6.
    - **Daniel did not pray to be seen by men, but happened to be seen by men (cf. Daniel 6:10)**.
  + **1 Peter 2:11-12** – Even while being faithful some will speak evil. Persistence is necessary to prove them wrong.
    - There is hope of winning them over to God in this persistent faithfulness/devotion.
  + **1 Peter 3:15-16; 4:4-5** – Some will not be won over, but their evil deeds won’t go unpunished.
    - **Although they may try, and even succeed, in injuring you, God reward’s devotion to Him in the end**.
* ***God rewarded***. (**cf. Daniel 6:21-23, 28; 12:13**).
  + **Revelation 2:8-10** – Despite persecution, if like Daniel, we are willing to die for the cause of God, He will reward us eternally.
  + **1 Peter 5:8-11** – Devotion and endurance is always rewarded by God.
  + **Hebrews 11:6** – We must believe He will reward diligent seekers!