

Daniel 6 - Rescue



If you were put on trial for having Jesus as Lord - would there be enough evidence to convict you?
(What type of evidence would prosecutors be looking for?)

When is right for a Christian to civilly disobey the authorities?

Briefly summarise the events of chapter 6:

- Daniel rises to dizzying heights in Darius' service (v 1-3),
- but his enemies at court convince the king to decree on pain of death that all must pray to him, and no one else (v 6-9).
- Daniel nevertheless prays publicly toward Jerusalem (v 10), and is arrested and accused (v 11-15).
- He is thrown into the lions' den (v 16-17), but God sends an angel to ensure he is not harmed (v19-22).
- Instead, his enemies are thrown to the lions (v 24), and the king comes to praise the God of Israel, who is able to rescue his people (v 25-27).

Daniel 6:4-5 - what is the conclusion Daniel's enemies come to as to how to accuse him? What is striking about that?

- There was nothing in Daniel's work that could be criticised—nothing. His conduct was blameless. Even his enemies could find nothing offensive, other than his resolve to obey God.

Compare and contrast Daniel and the King:

- Daniel continues praying as he had done before - whereas the king comes across as weak, trapped by his advisors into sending Daniel to his death

What does Daniel's rescue reveal about:

God?

- Rescues and Saves
- Worthy of Awe and praise v27

Daniel?

- He trusted God
- He's vindicated - innocent v22

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What similarities are there between Daniel in chapter 6 and Jesus' arrest, trial and crucifixion in the gospels?

- Innocent
- Falsely accused.
- Let down by a weak ruler who failed to protect him (Pontius Pilate).
- Delivered over to death.
- Vindicated by being delivered from death (though unlike Daniel, he actually died).
- Displayed the existence, power and mercy of God in his experience.

How does seeing Daniel as a shadow of Jesus make you more grateful to your Lord for what he went through to save you?

From chapters 1-6 what does Daniel show us of what it means to live for God distinctively and courageously in a hostile world? What has stood out to you most?

- Encourage people to look back and think about his humble dependence on God - commitment to prayer. Trust and courage. Wisdom he's shown. Compassion and honesty dealing with kings. Encouragement he's had praying with friends.

In what areas of your day to day life do you feel pressure to compromise on what you believe or conform to a different way of living and believing?

- Aim to get the group talking about whether they feel pressure from family and friends to have different priorities? Or perhaps the culture at work? Or even culture more generally?

From this chapter, what will encourage you to keep trusting God in the midst of difficult times? Will we be rescued from 'the lions' here and now?

- Encourage the group to talk about what they have seen about God's character.
- Link back to Chapter 3:16-18 and Daniel's friends faith 'even if he does not'