

Lamb or Lion in the Den?

Daniel 6:1-2 (NIV)

¹ It pleased Darius to appoint 120 satraps to rule throughout the kingdom, ² with three administrators over them, one of whom was Daniel. The satraps were made accountable to them so that the king might not suffer loss.

Daniel 6:3 (NIV)

³ Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the administrators and the satraps by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom.

Daniel 6:3 (ESV)

³ Then this Daniel became distinguished above all the other high officials and satraps, because an **excellent spirit** was in him. And the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom.

Lamb or Lion in the Den?

- 1) Excellence in what you do (which comes from God) will elevate us into positions of influence.

Daniel 1:19-20 (NIV)

¹⁹ The king talked with them, and he found none equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; so they entered the king's service. ²⁰ In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanterers in his whole kingdom.

Daniel 1:19-20 (NIV)

¹⁹ The king talked with them, and he found none equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; so they entered the king's service. ²⁰ In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom.

Proverbs 22:29 (NASB)

“Do you see a man skilled in his work?
He will stand before kings;
He will not stand before obscure men.”

Work

- Work - any activity involving mental or physical effort done in order to produce a blessing

As we work, we...

1. Live out God's nature in us
2. Reveal God's glory
3. Enjoy God and His blessings

In any and every place that God has placed you, you can display a spirit of excellence that can come only from God as you look to work for Him.

Colossians 3:22-24 (NIV)

“²² Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to curry their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. ²³ Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, ²⁴ since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.”

Daniel 6:4 (NIV)

⁴ At this, the administrators and the satraps tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs, but they were unable to do so. **They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent.**

Daniel 6:5 (NIV)

⁵ Finally these men said, “We will never find any basis for charges against this man Daniel unless it has something to do with the law of his God.”

Going Against The Flow

Romans 12:2 (NIV)

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Lamb or Lion in the Den?

- 1) Excellence in what you do (which comes from God) will elevate us into positions of influence.
- 2) If you want to be a testimony at work, you have to be willing to go against the flow.

Daniel 6:7(NIV)

⁷ The royal administrators, prefects, satraps, advisers and governors have all agreed that the king should issue an edict and enforce the decree that anyone who prays to any god or human being during the next thirty days, except to you, Your Majesty, shall be thrown into the lions' den.

Daniel 6:10 (NIV)

¹⁰ Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before.

“We must come to see that there are some things so eternally true that they are worth dying for. If a man has not discovered something that he will die for, he isn’t fit to live.”

Dr Martin Luther King, Jr

Daniel 6:11 (NIV)

¹¹ Then these men went as a group and found Daniel praying and asking God for help.

Daniel 6:13 (NIV)

¹³ Then they said to the king, “Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, Your Majesty, or to the decree you put in writing. He still prays three times a day.”

God's call to us is no different as it was in Daniel's day. God called Daniel to go against the flow and so does He call us to do the same.

Hebrews 11:13-14 (NASB)

“¹³ (All these)...died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. ¹⁴ For those who say such things make it clear that they are seeking a country of their own.”

Are you an exile or are you home
already?

Daniel 6:14 (NIV)

¹⁴ When the king heard this, he was greatly distressed; he was determined to rescue Daniel and made every effort until sundown to save him.

Daniel 6:16 (NIV)

¹⁶ So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions' den. The king said to Daniel, "May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!"

Lamb or Lion in the Den?

- 1) Excellence in what you do (which comes from God) will elevate us into positions of influence.
- 2) If you want to be a testimony at work, you have to be willing to go against the flow.
- 3) When your faith is so strong and so real, the people around you may actually start believing in your God.

Daniel 6:19-20 (NIV)

¹⁹ At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions' den. ²⁰ When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?"

Despite hopeless situations, those around you may start to find hope in what your God can do, not only for you but also for them.

Lamb or Lion in the Den?

- 1) Excellence in what you do (which comes from God) will elevate us into positions of influence.
- 2) If you want to be a testimony at work, you have to be willing to go against the flow.
- 3) When your faith is so strong and so real, the people around you may actually start believing in your God.
- 4) God's name will be glorified through your times of trial as you trust in Him alone.

Daniel 6:25-27 (NIV)

²⁵ Then King Darius wrote to all the nations and peoples of every language in all the earth: “May you prosper greatly! ²⁶ “I issue a decree that in every part of my kingdom people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel. “For he is the living God and he endures forever; his kingdom will not be destroyed, his dominion will never end. ²⁷ He rescues and he saves; he performs signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth. He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions.”

Lamb or Lion in the Den?