

Sermon Text Discussion 10/11/2020

A Test of Loyalty (Edgar Momoh) Daniel 6

Overview

Today's text is that of a very familiar story – Daniel in the lion's den. Daniel has thrived for more than 60 years in captivity. He is now in his early 80s and is serving as an official for King Darius. By this time, he would have been completely knowledgeable of the language and culture around him and would have been able to 'fit in' to avoid confrontation. Yet, we will see that he refuses to compromise when faced with a decision whether or not to serve his God. He remained faithful in spite of imminent danger.

Quotation

"We paid a price for the privilege of preaching. We preached. They beat us. We were happy preaching. And they were happy beating us. So, everyone was happy." Richard Wurmbrand (*Tortured for Christ*)

"Discipleship is costly." Edgar Momoh

Understanding & Application

- 1) From all indications, Daniel had thrived as a captive in Babylon. He has now served under three kings and has risen to a very prominent political position. He was respected. How would you define what it means to 'thrive'? Who comes to mind when you think of someone, like Daniel, who is thriving? What are the indicators and drivers to them currently thriving?
- 2) Daniel's political competitors sought to set a trap for him. However, the only thing they could find upon which to set the trap was his extreme faith and commitment to his God. His record was clean. What examples come to mind today of someone having their faith held against them? The consequences for Daniel were severe! What are consequences today?
- 3) Read Philippians 2:14-16. Paul could easily be describing Daniel. I doubt if anyone of us consistently measures up to this profile. What gaps do you experience in your own life?
- 4) Daniel refused to compromise no matter the cost. Describe a time you faced a situation testing your faith. How did you fair? What did you learn?
- 5) Read II Timothy 3:12. Do you feel persecuted today? Do you feel you may face significant persecution in your lifetime? What should we do to prepare for that possibility?