

The Man who Wouldn't Stop Praying

Daniel 6; Hebrews 11:32-34

"Look! By the window! Do you see him? He is praying!" The men whisper to each other, then quietly walk away. Whose house are they spying on? Why are they trying to see if someone is praying?

It is Daniel's house that the men are staring at. And it is Daniel whom they want to get in trouble.

There is a new king ruling over the land: King Darius. He has chosen Daniel to be the greatest ruler in his kingdom, but the other rulers don't like this. They don't like Daniel—he comes from a strange country and prays to a strange God! No, they wish Daniel was dead. Then they would be the greatest rulers in the kingdom.

The rulers watch Daniel carefully. Maybe Daniel will do something bad! Then they can tell the king and Daniel will be punished.

But Daniel doesn't do anything bad. Daniel is good and kind.

Then the rulers have another plan. "King!" they say. "Make a new law that says for thirty days everyone must only pray to you. Anyone who disobeys will be thrown into the den of lions."

Daniel hears about the new law but he is not afraid. Quietly he goes to his window—the window that opens to his old

country, far away. He kneels down. He prays and gives thanks to God three times every day.

The rulers have been watching Daniel. They hoped he would pray to God and now he is! Quickly they hurry to the king. "O King!" they say. "Daniel does not obey your law! He prays three times a day to his own God."

The king is upset. He likes Daniel and does not want to throw him into the lions' den...but he must. The rulers remind him: "You know, O King, that the law may never be changed."



The sun is setting. It is growing dark in the land as soldiers go to Daniel's house. Daniel knows why the soldiers have come, but he does not try to run away. No, Daniel trusts in God, and the king also hopes in Daniel's God.

"Daniel," says the king, "Your God whom you always serve, He will save you."

The lions' den is opened and the soldiers throw Daniel into their den. A stone is put on the opening so no one can help Daniel get out. The rulers are happy, for Daniel will soon be dead.

But King Darius is not happy. He cannot sleep that night. He is waiting for morning to come. The lions were hungry, he knows, *but maybe...somehow...could Daniel's God have kept Daniel safe*

from the hungry lions? he wonders. He has to find out!

At last it is almost morning. The sky is just beginning to grow light as the king gets up and hurries to the lions' den. The stone is moved away, but everything is dark and quiet in the den.

"Daniel!" the king calls. His voice sounds so sad and, yet, he hopes. "Daniel! Servant of the living God, was your God able to save you from the lions?"

Oh, listen! A voice answers the king...it is Daniel! He is alive! "My God has sent his angel to shut the lions' mouths so that they have not hurt me," Daniel calls to the king.

How glad the king is! "Take Daniel up out of the den!" he commands the soldiers, "and throw the rulers—his enemies—into the den, instead."

The soldiers obey. This time the Lord does not send an angel to close the lions' mouths. No. These men had no love for the Lord. They thought only about being the greatest, and they tried to hurt God's servant, Daniel.

And now the king makes a new law: "I decree that in my kingdom all people must tremble and fear before the God of Daniel, for He is the living God."

1. The law said you may only pray to the king. Who did Daniel pray to?
2. Who gave Daniel courage to keep praying? Read the encouragement God gives in Isaiah 41:10-11. Can you learn verse 13?



3. The rulers wanted to throw Daniel in the lions' den, but did the king want to?

4. Did the lions eat Daniel? Why not? Did the lions eat the other men? Why?

5. Daniel loved God. This is why he kept praying at his window when he was tempted not to. Joseph also loved God and didn't want to sin against him. This is why he wouldn't listen to Potiphar's wife when she told him to do something wrong (Genesis 39:9b).

Think of a time or place where you are often tempted to sin. Loving God and his commands will help you not to sin. Can you read Psalm 119:11 and tell of another help for obeying God? (Memorizing his word.) Is there a helpful Bible verse that you can hide (memorize) in your heart?