

Daniel 6
Peace in the Lion's Den

- The foundation of our lives is revealed in times of crisis

- The importance of integrity in our lives
 - Integrity to withstand the external pressure of compromise

 - Integrity to withstand the internal pressure of temptation

 - Integrity to stand in the face of threat and crisis

- The source of integrity; A relationship with God
 - The benefits of relationship come through the habits of relationship

 - The importance of thankfulness in our relationship with God

- How to have peace in the lion's den
 - Have faith that God is both in the den and in control

 - Trust that God will establish truth and bring justice

Questions for reflection, application, and discussion

- In his message Pastor Mike talked about the importance of integrity.
 - What is integrity?
 - He talked about how the integrity that gives us the ability to withstand the inner pressure of temptation is related to the integrity that gives us the ability to withstand the external pressure of compromise. How are these things related? Can a person have integrity in one of these areas and not the other? Explain your answer.
 - He also said that a person's moral integrity is directly linked to their ability to stand strong in the face of a threat and/or a crisis. Do you agree? How are these related?
 - Pastor Mike also said that our integrity or lack of integrity is revealed under pressure. What does he mean? What has the pressure of this current crisis revealed about the level of your integrity?
- While serving under King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, Daniel was promoted to the position of the chief adviser of the king, and then while serving under king Darius of Persia, he was promoted to the position of the top overseer in the kingdom, just under Darius himself.
 - What traits do you think contributed to Daniel's promotions under different kings, in spite of the fact that he was a foreigner with a different faith.
 - How do you think his faith impacted the quality of his work? As followers of Christ, how should our faith impact the quality of our work? What does Ephesians 6:5-9 teach about this question?
- The story of Daniel teaches that our integrity ultimately finds its source in our relationship with God.
 - How is our relationship with God the source of both our moral integrity and our ability to stand in the midst of threats and times of crisis?
 - Daniel 6:10 tells us that after he heard that the law had been signed outlawing any petition or prayer, Daniel went to his house and with his windows opened *"he got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously."* Why did Daniel do this? What does it teach us about him? How does it challenge you in your faith?
 - The verse tells us not only that he prayed, but that he *"prayed and gave thanks*

before his God.” Why does it emphasize that he gave thanks? What is the importance of giving thanks in our prayer, especially in hard times?

- How did Daniel have peace in the midst of the lion’s den? What can we and should we learn from his story and his example?