



A Different Kingdom - The Dilemma

Pastor Dave Patterson 10.06.2024

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to discuss the weekend message.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session. Give priority to the needs and pace of your group members.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships. Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

[James 3:16]

Wherever there is contention and selfish ambition, there you will find disorder, confusion and evil of every kind.

[Philippians 3:20]

"But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior."

[Daniel 3:17-18]

If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God whom we serve is able to save us. He will rescue us from your power, O king. ¹⁸ But even if he doesn't, we want to make it clear to you, that we will never serve your gods or worship the gold statue you have set up."

**"When you make a determination before the dilemma,
God shows up as your defender."**

[Daniel 6:4-16]

Then the other administrators and high officers began searching for some fault in the way Daniel was handling government affairs, but they couldn't find anything to criticize or condemn. He was faithful, always responsible, and completely trustworthy. So they concluded, "Our only chance of finding grounds for accusing Daniel will be in connection with the rules of his religion." So the administrators and high officers went to the king and said, "Long live King Darius! We are all in agreement—we administrators, officials, high officers, advisers, and governors—that the king should make a law that will be strictly enforced. Give orders that for the next thirty days any person who prays to anyone, divine or human—except to you, Your Majesty—will be thrown into the den of lions. And now, Your Majesty, issue and sign this law so it cannot be changed, an official law of the Medes and Persians that cannot be revoked." So King Darius signed the law. But when Daniel learned that the law had been signed, he went home and knelt down as usual in his upstairs room, with its windows open toward Jerusalem. He prayed three times a day, just as he had always done, giving thanks to his God. Then the officials went together to Daniel's house and found him praying and asking for God's help. So they went straight to the king and reminded him about his law. "Did you not sign a law that for the next thirty days any person who prays to anyone, divine or human—except to you, Your Majesty—will be thrown into the den of lions?" "Yes," the king replied, "that decision stands; it is an official law of the Medes and Persians that cannot be revoked." Then they told the king, "That man Daniel, one of the captives from Judah, is ignoring you and your law. He still prays to his God three times a day." Hearing this, the king was deeply troubled, and he tried to think of a way to save Daniel. He spent the rest of the day looking for a way to get Daniel out of this predicament. In the evening the men went together to the king and said, "Your Majesty, you know that according to the law of the Medes and the Persians, no law that the king signs can be changed." So at last the king gave orders for Daniel to be arrested and thrown into the den of lions. The king said to him, "May your God, whom you serve so faithfully, rescue you."

3- Determinations

1. Determine you will stand, not bow to the idols of culture
2. Determine you will honor God with the first and the best
3. Determine that you will pray until

[Daniel 10:12]

Then he said, "Don't be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day you began to pray for understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your request has been heard in heaven. I have come in answer to your prayer."

[Daniel 6:22-23]

"Long live the king! My God sent his angel to shut the lions' mouths so that they would not hurt me, ... and not a scratch was found on him, for he had trusted in his God.

[Deuteronomy 32:4]

"The Lord is your mighty defender, perfect and just in all his ways; Your God is faithful and true.

Key Points:

1. Determine you will stand, not bow to the idols of culture
2. Determine you will honor God with the first and the best
3. Determine that you will pray until

Applications for the Week:

What practical ways can you honor God with the first and best of your time, talents, and resources this week? Pray about it, write it down, and take action.

Discussion Questions

1. **Reflect on a situation where you faced pressure to conform to cultural norms. How did you respond, and what might you do differently in light of "even if" faith?**
2. **How did Daniel's commitment to prayer demonstrate his determination before facing the lion's den?**
3. **Consider a decision you need to make soon. How can you apply the principle of making determinations before dilemmas to this situation?**
4. **In what ways can making determinations before facing dilemmas strengthen a believer's faith journey?**
5. **What cultural pressures did the sermon mention that can subtly demand our allegiance today?**
6. **Identify a cultural ideology that challenges your faith. How can you stand firm in biblical truth while engaging with this ideology?**
7. **How can you cultivate a deeper understanding of God's word to resist cultural pressures and stand firm in your faith?**
8. **Reflect on your current prayer life. What steps can you take to make prayer a more consistent and powerful part of your daily routine?**