

SERMON OUTLINE

THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD

DANIEL 6:16-24

MARCH 27, 2022

THREE ASPECTS OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

1. God's faithfulness does not shield us from hardship: vs. 16-18
2. God's faithfulness is often manifested through His comforting presence: vs. 19-22
 - The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.² He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.³ He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.⁴ Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me." – Psalm 23:1-4
 - "But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one." – 2 Thess. 3:3
3. God's faithfulness drives the deliverance of His people: vs. 23-24
 - "In a fallen and sinful world there is a somber side to the salvation of God's people. The deliverance of Eve's seed is always accompanied by the bruising of the head of the serpent (Gen. 3:15). Christ delivers those who were subject to a lifelong fear of death by destroying the one who had the power of death (Heb. 2:14-15). The dark side to Daniel's deliverance is the judgment that falls on those who had sought to destroy the kingdom of God. They and their entire families, even wives and children, were cast into the den of lions and immediately attacked and devoured. Their gods were unable to deliver them from the lions, whereas Daniel's God had delivered him." – Sinclair Ferguson

DANIEL POINTS TO JESUS:

- Both prayed regularly: Daniel 6:11; Luke 5:16
- Spiteful accusers sought to entrap each by means of his worship practice and faithfulness to God's Word: Daniel 6:6; Matthew 4:6-10
- A malicious crowd brings him to a pagan ruler and accuses him of violating the law: Daniel 6:12-14; Matthew 26:47-50; 27:1-2, 11-14
- The ruler, judging him innocent, seeks to set him free, but eventually gives in to the crowd's desire and condemns him to death: Daniel 6:15-17; Matthew 27:18-26

- Both Daniel and Jesus are said to have “trusted in (his) God”: Daniel 6:24; Matthew 27:43
- A rock is placed over the opening of the pit or tomb and sealed with a royal seal: Daniel 6:18; Matthew 27:66
- At dawn the king hurries to the pit, as the women did to the tomb on Easter dawn: Daniel 6:20; Matthew 28:1
- Both emerge alive: Daniel, who served “the living God,” and the risen Jesus, who is himself “the living one”: Daniel 6:21, 27; Luke 24:5

Jesus is the true and better Daniel, having been lowered into a lion’s den of death, emerges early the next morning alive and vindicated by His God.

“But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.” – 1 Peter 2:20-22

Benediction: “All the kings of the earth shall give you thanks, O Lord, for they have heard the words of your mouth, and they shall sing of the ways of the Lord, for great is the glory of the Lord. Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life; you stretch out your hand against the wrath of my enemies, and your right hand delivers me. The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands.” – Psalm 138