



<b>SERIES:</b>	27 Daniel - I Dare You - 2013
<b>MESSAGE:</b>	<b>I Dare You: Be Faithful!</b>
<b>SPEAKER:</b>	Skip Heitzig
<b>SCRIPTURE:</b>	Daniel 6:1-15

## MESSAGE SUMMARY

Daniel was consistently faithful, both publicly and privately. His diligence and attitude set him apart from his peers and his reputation withstood harsh scrutiny. When his life was on the line, Daniel refused to compromise—he dared to be faithful!

## OUTLINE

- I. He Was Faithful Consistently (vv. 1-2)
- II. He Was Faithful Professionally (v. 3)
- III. He Was Faithful Under Scrutiny (vv. 4-9)
- IV. He Was Faithful Spiritually (vv. 10-15)

## DETAILED NOTES

### I. Introduction

- A. Faithfulness is one of the supreme attributes, whether it's in marriage, friendship, or business
- B. Who can find a faithful man or woman? "Most men will proclaim each his own goodness, but who can find a faithful man?" Proverbs 20:6
- C. Typically faithfulness is an attribute we assign to God
- D. There was a faithful man with a jealous wife, she didn't believe he was faithful
- E. God found a faithful man in Moses (see Numbers 12:7)
- F. Nehemiah found a faithful man in Hananiah (see Nehemiah 7:2)
- G. In the New Testament Jesus spoke of a faithful and wise servant, "Well done good and faithful servant" (see Matthew 25:21-23)
- H. In Yellowstone National Park there is a geyser called *Old Faithful*
  1. It's regular
  2. It's consistent
  3. It can be counted on
- I. In all of the attributes people give to genius and competence, faithfulness is always at the top of the list
- J. One leader said that the greatest ability is dependability

### II. Faithfulness sums up Daniel's life

- A. Consistently faithful
- B. Faithful in his professional life
- C. Faithful under scrutiny
- D. Faithful spiritually
- E. Over time, he was faithful to his boss, his country, and his God

- F. There has been a kingdom change
    - 1. Medes and the Persians are now in charge
    - 2. Darius the Mede is ruling—he's the de facto king, but Cyrus was the real ruler
    - 3. Babylon has fallen as predicted in Daniel 2
- III. Daniel is consistently faithful
- A. Daniel was one of three regional rulers over 120 provincial rulers
  - B. Satraps were the territorial/provincial rulers
  - C. Daniel is now 85 years old
    - 1. Daniel has lived in Babylon since he was a teenager—about 70 years
    - 2. Six kings have come and gone
    - 3. One kingdom has gone and another has arisen
    - 4. He's still on the job—faithful
    - 5. Serving the Lord
  - D. Faithfulness is doing the right thing over and over and over
    - 1. Missionary to India William Carey said, "I can plod"
    - 2. Just put one foot in front of the other
    - 3. God has wrought wonderful things through men and women who plod along faithfully and consistently
  - E. Daniel is 85 and he's still not retired
    - 1. In our culture we'd put him in a nursing home
    - 2. Thomas Edison at 90 years old was still inventing
    - 3. Frank Lloyd Wright at 90 was still drawing
    - 4. Michelangelo at 85 years old painted his most famous work that is still hanging in the Sistine Chapel
    - 5. John Wesley at 88 years old could still preach forcefully and articulately
    - 6. At age 95 Billy Graham is writing another book and preparing for the biggest evangelism event of his life
    - 7. Song writer George Beverly is 104 years old and he can still sing—better than most
  - F. Faithful consistently—long obedience in the same direction—that's Daniel
- IV. Daniel is seen as a cut above—he's faithful professionally
- A. In virtually every chapter so far Daniel is seen as a cut above all the rest
    - 1. In Daniel chapter 1 he had favor and good will
    - 2. In Daniel chapter 2 King Nebuchadnezzar promoted him
    - 3. In Daniel chapter 5 Belshazzar set him as third ruler over the kingdom
    - 4. Every boss he had saw the competence and dependability of Daniel
  - B. In the New Testament Jesus said "You are the light of the world...let your light shine before men" (Matthew 5:14-16)
    - 1. The best place to be a light is at work
    - 2. If you live to be 70 years old, you will have worked 20 solid years
    - 3. The point is: that's 20 years for people to observe you
  - C. Some of Skip's best years of ministry were in the secular work world
    - 1. Worked around people day in and day out who might never come to church
    - 2. Interesting

3. Fruitful
  4. People would ask "Do you think you ever want to go into full-time ministry?"
  5. His reply: "I am!"
- D. Daniel had a good work ethic; What is Daniel doing?
1. He's serving the Lord
  2. He was a hard worker
  3. He distinguished himself
    - a. Aramaic participle: regularly distinguishing himself
    - b. He had a strong work ethic
    - c. Whatever he was given to do, he did well
  4. Skip worked with a young believer in the medical field who was responsible for bringing patients down to radiology
    - a. He was known as the guy who was consistently late
    - b. He would witness to the patients and pray with them
    - c. Do what you are paid to do
    - d. Witness and pray on your lunch hour or after work
    - e. You want to be the best witness? Be the best worker—have a strong work ethic
- E. Daniel had an excellent spirit/attitude
1. He wasn't always bummed out and complaining
  2. Thanked God in time of trial
  3. When was the last time you thanked your boss?
  4. Gratitude is the attitude that sets the altitude for your Christian life
  5. Work hard, have a good attitude (see Ephesians 6:5-8)
    - a. Slaves were owned
    - b. Be humble so that you have the opportunity to evangelize
    - c. That attitude would change a job drudgery to a meaningful ministry
    - d. Three men working, doing the same job; breaking rocks, earning a living, building a cathedral
- V. Daniel was faithful under scrutiny
- A. The king sought to put Daniel above all the realm of Babylon
    1. His peers were jealous
    2. Anytime you are in a position of authority or power, you will be envied and criticized
    3. Scripture tells us to rejoice with those who rejoice (see Romans 12:15); how hard is that?
  - B. Even under scrutiny, Daniel was blameless—there were no skeletons in his closet
  - C. Lord Acton said, "Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely"
  - D. Kent Hughes wrote an article about corruption among the 100<sup>th</sup> United States Congress
  - E. Daniel was clean but not without controversy
    1. Chapter one controversy: won't eat foods that would defile him
    2. Chapter two controversy: told the king that his kingdom was coming down
    3. Chapter four controversy: told the king that he was prideful

4. Chapter five controversy: he was a party pooper
5. In all controversy he distinguished himself above the rest
6. Billy Graham has been a controversial figure who found himself under scrutiny of the media
  - a. Since 1955 Billy Graham has been on the George Gallup list *The Ten Most Admired Men in America* 56 times—more than any other human being
  - b. He's never been number one
  - c. But he's always in the top ten
  - d. Because even under scrutiny, he's a faithful man

#### VI. Daniel was faithful spiritually

- A. It was the written law that he couldn't pray
  1. He opened his window
  2. Got on his knees
  3. Prayed three times a day
- B. It was his custom
  1. He'd always done it
  2. He's doing it now
  3. He's faithful
- C. Were there other options for Daniel?
  1. Lay low for a month?
  2. Could he have prayed in private?
  3. If Daniel would have changed to praying in private, it would have discredited his testimony
  4. Better to die for a conviction than live with a compromise
- D. Skip is often convicted over this verse; think of all the lame excuses I've/we've had for not being consistently faithful in our prayer life
  1. Common excuses
    - a. Need my beauty sleep
    - b. I exercise at that time
    - c. My show's on TV
    - d. I'm so busy with work
  2. Faithful people in our own church
    - a. They don't make a big splash
    - b. Most don't even know who they are
    - c. The group who meets on Sundays to pray for the church and us every week
    - d. Faithful couple every week who pray for all the prayer requests sent in and placed in the agape boxes
    - e. Faithful woman who stands in front of the map and lays her hands on all the different parts of the world and prays for all the missionaries

#### VII. Closing

- A. Who can find a faithful man or woman?
- B. Plodding—long obedience in the same direction
- C. George Boldt managed a small hotel in Philadelphia

1. Good manager
  2. Gave his room to William Waldorf Astor
  3. William asked him to manage his hotel in New York City
- D. Be faithful in the little things
1. How are you managing your life?
  2. We are saved by grace but are rewarded according to our faithfulness
- E. Be a faithful worker
- F. Work hard with an excellent spirit

**Publications referenced:** article on corruption in the U.S. 100<sup>th</sup> Congress; Gallup list *The Ten Most Admired Men in America*

**Figures referenced:** William Carey, Thomas Edison, Frank Lloyd Wright, Michelangelo, John Wesley, Billy Graham, George Beverly Shea, Lord Acton, Kent Hughes, George Gallup, George Boldt, William Waldorf Astor

**Cross references:** Numbers 12:7, Nehemiah 7:2, Proverbs 20:6, Daniel 1, 2, 4, 5, Matthew 5:14, 25:21-23, Romans 12:15, Ephesians 6:5-8

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