

The Feeling of Discomfort – Two
When You Are Inside of God's Will
12/04/2016 Sunday AM

Scripture Verses: Daniel 6:16-24

Sermon Notes

- Last week we discussed The Feeling of Discomfort: When You Are Outside of God's Will.
- We read the story of Jonah, who disobeyed God's instructions and ended up spending three days in the belly of a large fish.
- Jonah found himself in an uncomfortable situation because he was outside of God's will.
- We saw last week that God is not going to allow you to be comfortable as long as you are outside of his will
- It is important for us to remember that God was the one that put Jonah in that place of discomfort so that Jonah would understand the error of his ways.
- There are many times that we go through trials and tribulations because God is trying to get our attention.
- To simply pray and ask him to remove you from the situation will not suffice, we must get back in His will.
- So, being outside of God's will for your life and being disobedient will most certainly lead to discomfort in your life.
- However, not every uncomfortable situation we go through is because of us being outside of God's will.
- This morning we will look at Part Two of this message and we will look at The Feeling of Discomfort: When You Are Inside of God's Will.

Daniel 6:16-24

¹⁶So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions' den. The king said to Daniel, "May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!" ¹⁷A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the rings of his nobles, so that Daniel's situation might not be changed. ¹⁸Then the king returned to his palace and spent the night without eating and without any entertainment being brought to him. And he could not sleep. ¹⁹At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions' den. ²⁰When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?" ²¹Daniel answered, "O king, live forever! ²²My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, O king." ²³The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den. And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God. ²⁴At the king's command, the men who had falsely accused Daniel were brought in and thrown into the lions' den, along with their wives and children. And before they reached the floor of the den, the lions overpowered them and crushed all their bones.

Context

- The divided kingdom of Israel and Judah had both been conquered, and the people exiled to foreign lands.
- The story of Daniel is quite remarkable because he quickly found himself in important places within the foreign kingdoms.
- In chapter 6 we see that Daniel is one of three regional administrators who oversee many "satraps" or what we would call governors.
- Daniel had done so well in his role and exhibited such great qualities that king Darius was thinking about making him the administrator over the entire kingdom.
- Of course threatened the other administrators, and they along with their satraps began to plot against Daniel.
- They tried to find something against him in his job, but they could not so they turned to his faith.
- They convinced Darius to issue a binding decree that anyone who prayed to a god other than Darius in the next thirty days, would be thrown into the lion's den.
- Daniel of course prayed to God and was caught and even though the king did not want to throw Daniel in the lion's den, he was bound by the law of the land and even the king could not repeal it.

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- So we see in v. 16 that the king had to throw Daniel into the lion's den.
- This was obviously something that Darius did not want to do to Daniel and he even said to him, "May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!"
- After sealing the opening to the den with his signet ring and those of other nobles, the king left to spend what we read to be an agonizing night.
- However, what we see is that Daniel was not harmed by the lions because as we see in v. 22, "My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, O king."
- God protected Daniel by shutting the mouths of the lions and he escaped the den without a scratch.
- King Darius was happy and all of the people that conspired against Daniel were thrown into the lion's den along with their families. However, their fate was a little different that Daniel's v. 24 tells us.

- So what we see from this is that Daniel was placed in an uncomfortable place and he was clearly doing what God wanted him to do.
- Daniel was in no way disobedient to God, as v. 22 says, he had done nothing wrong before the king either.
- Daniel is a perfect example of the fact that when we are inside of God's will and we are doing the things that God would have us to be doing, we are going to experience discomfort.
- Persecution comes when we are inside of God's will and with persecution comes a lot of discomfort.
- **Just as God will not allow you to be comfortable when you are outside of His will, Satan seeks to prevent you from being comfortable when you are inside of God's will.**
- We see people in the Bible being persecuted time and time again for doing what is right and following God's will for their lives.
- This is a common theme from the Old Testament to the New Testament and the examples are almost endless
- However, the story of Daniel is marvelous because it shows us everything we need to know.
- **Yes, we will find ourselves in uncomfortable situations and in trials and tribulations when we are doing God's will, but God will protect us and bring us through those storms victorious!**
- Not only did king Darius kill the people that conspired against Daniel, but he made a decree in vv. 25-28.

²⁵Then King Darius wrote to all the peoples, nations and men of every language throughout the land: "May you prosper greatly! ²⁶"I issue a decree that in every part of my kingdom people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel. "For he is the living God and he endures forever; his kingdom will not be destroyed, his dominion will never end. ²⁷He rescues and he saves; he performs signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth. He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions." ²⁸So Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

- Daniel stood up for God and was obedient before the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords, and he was able to influence the entire kingdom for God Almighty.
- V. 28 also tells us that Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and Cyrus the Persian.
- Outside the will of God discomfort leads to more discomfort.
- Inside the will of God discomfort leads to blessings and prosperity as long as we stay the course.