

LIONS WITHOUT A ROAR

Welcome to Faith Students!! We are in week 6 of our series on the the book of Daniel called “Den of Dreams”.

Opening Illustration: *Tell a story of how some of your friends have tattled on you for something very small. Or maybe you even got snitched on for doing the right thing. (Or a story of jealousy either you being jealous of someone else or someone being jealous of you)*

-We have all been in a situation where someone has snitched on us whether it be for doing the wrong thing or the right thing. In our story today we find Daniel yet again being snitched on by his friends. They are jealous of him because of His love for God and the favor the is shown towards him because of it. So they had to figure out a way to get him killed.... Done done doneeeee!

Set up and context:

At this point in our story we find Daniel about to be appointed by King Darius to be over the entire empire. But, other high officials were not happy about Daniel being promoted so they told the King to enact a law that for anyone who prayed to anyone except the King would be thrown into a den of lions. Reluctantly, the king signed the law.

when Daniel learned this he still decided to go home and kneel down and pray to God as he did every day 3 times a day. The other officials caught wind of this and decided to go to Daniels house. They found him praying so they went straight to the King and told on him.

The King was troubled because He loved Daniel and did not want to throw him into a den of lions, but he had been coerced to sign this law so he had to act on it. The King even told Daniel that he hoped that his God would save him and he was very sad to have to put Daniel in the Lions den.

Let's pick up the story in verse 19 where we find the King coming to find Daniel after he had spent the night in the lions den. So turn your bibles to Daniel 6:19 and we will be reading in the New Living Translation

19 Very early the next morning, the king got up and hurried out to the lions' den. 20 When he got there, he called out in anguish, "Daniel, servant of the living God! Was your God, whom you serve so faithfully, able to rescue you from the lions?" 21 Daniel answered, "Long live the king! 22 My God sent his angel to shut the lions' mouths so that they would not hurt me, for I have been found innocent in his sight. And I have not wronged you, Your Majesty." 23 The king was overjoyed and ordered that Daniel be lifted from the den. Not a scratch was found on him, for he had trusted in his God. 24 Then the king gave orders to arrest the men who had maliciously accused Daniel. He had them thrown into the lions' den, along with their wives and children. The lions leaped on them and tore them apart before they even hit the floor of the den. 25 Then King Darius sent this message to the people of every race and nation and language throughout the world:

"Peace and prosperity to you!

26 "I decree that everyone throughout my kingdom should tremble with fear before the God of Daniel.

For he is the living God, and he will endure forever. His kingdom will never be destroyed, and his rule will never end. 27 He rescues and saves his people; he performs miraculous signs and wonders in the heavens and on earth. He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions.” 28 So Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

PRAY

How many of you would like to have courage like Daniel? To have Faith like Daniel? To trust in God like Daniel? To be put in a lions den and know that your God is going to protect you. Let me tell you that It is possible to have this kind of trust in God.

Now if you're taking notes the title of my message is **“Lions without a roar”**.

Daniel said that an angel was sent down to heaven and shut the mouths of the lions this means that these were “Lions without a roar”. God can do the same thing with the enemies that we face. He can shut them up! But how and why does God protect us from the enemy who is out to steal kill and destroy us? He protect us because He loves us, But He also expects some things from us.

God will shut the mouth of the enemy... but Just like Daniel we have to...

1. Be Obedient to the Lord

**Illustration// How many of us are super good at being obedient?
Tell a story of how being disobedient got you in trouble and why
being obedient is so important. (A lesson that your learned)**

We all know that being obedient can be difficult at times, but as believers we must be obedient to God at all times and that takes humility, something that many of us struggle with.

-I firmly believe that if Daniel was not being obedient to the Lord he would not have shut the mouths of the Lions. Daniel chose to be obedient in the midst of everyone turning their back on Him. He choose to pray to the Lord and be obedient to Him and not what the world was telling Him.

We have to be obedient to the Lord! That means we have to do what He says, not what the world says. in verse 22 it says: **My God sent his angel to shut the lions' mouths so that they would not hurt me, for I have been found innocent in his sight. And I have not wronged you, Your Majesty."**

- Daniel had done nothing wrong in the eyes of God. He heard the law that was created and still chose to obedient to the Lord. This can be a lot like us. We find ourselves in a world where a lot of times they are telling us to do all the wrong things. Whether it's through social media, friends at school or things that we watch on TV a lot of it point us in the wrong direction. All of these things are telling us to love ourselves and "do what makes you feel good" When in reality we are called to live for Jesus, live with humility and be obedient to Him and Him alone.

-Some of us may even have friends like the other advisors that Daniel worked with in this story. Maybe they tell you things that aren't true, maybe they tear you down or even make fun of you for doing the right thing or for being a Christians. But let me just tell you today that you are not called to serve them and make them happy. You are called to serve the Lord and be obedient to Him. When you do this

you realize that no matter what the enemy tries to throw your way the Lord will protect you.

We have to be obedient to the Lord but we also have to...

2. Trust The Lord

Verse 23 says, **“The king was overjoyed and ordered that Daniel be lifted from the den. Not a scratch was found on him, for he had trusted in his God.”**

-Daniel was not even scratched by the lions. Which is crazy because their mouths were shut. However, lions still have paws with crazy sharp nails but God didn't even allow him to be harmed at all by these lions. Simply because Daniel Trusted God.

He trusted that God would protect Him. He knew that the angel came down and shut the mouths of the lions, but he had to trust God that He would not even let him be harmed in any way by these lions.

When we choose to live for Jesus and be obedient to Him it can become easier for us to shut out all of the negative voices in our lives. There are also things in this world that want to harm us. But, we have to trust in the Lord. We have to trust that he will protect us and watch over us. He will not let a hair on your head be harmed when we simply choose to trust in Him.

Key// You can trust the Lord because God will protect you.

-The Lord protected Daniel in the Lions den and He will protect you too. I know many of us find ourselves in what feels like a lions den. You may feel like you're in a bad place either spiritually or emotionally. You may feel like there are things in your life that are tearing you down or even people in your life that are tearing you down. You have to know that no matter what situation you find yourself in today... God will protect you!

-He will watch over you, He will shut out the lies of the enemy and watch over us. We just simply have to be obedient to Him and trust that He is in control. It says in the Bible that **“He is working everything out for the good of those who love Him.”**

-You don't have to worry about your enemies because God will take care of them. We see in this story that all of the friends who tried to get Daniel killed were put in the lions den themselves along with their families. God did not just take care of Daniel but He took care of His enemies and He made sure they could never harm him again.

-God will take care of your enemies. Jesus already went down to hell and stole the Keys from the devil, He is in control! We do not have to be afraid. The only person we have to Fear is the Lord. And that is our 3rd and final point...

3. Fear the Lord

Closing Illustration about fear// tell a story about a time where you were very afraid and didn't know what to do or a fear that you have. *(I am going to talk about my fear of heights and how I hate roller coasters.)*

We are all afraid of something, but we don't have to be because God is on our side. He is the only one we should fear. Through the story of Daniel and watching Him be saved from the Lions den King Darius and Daniel both Learned that...

Key// When you live with a Holy fear of the Lord, you will prosper.

In Verse 26-28 of our story King Darius says,

26 “I decree that everyone throughout my kingdom should tremble with fear before the God of Daniel. For he is the living God, and he will endure forever. His kingdom will never be

destroyed, and his rule will never end. 27 He rescues and saves his people; he performs miraculous signs and wonders in the heavens and on earth. He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions.” 28 So Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

Because Daniel choose to fear the Lord, He prospered during the reign of King Darius. And you can prosper to no matter what you are going through.

We serve the God who will endure forever. His kingdom will never end. He reduces and saves us when we simply say yes to Him and choose to trust and obey Him. There is nothing that the enemy can throw your way the Jesus cannot handle. He will protect you, He will provide for you and you will prosper! God has a plan and a purpose for you and He wants to see you prosper and do great things in this life, but you have to put Jesus first!

You just have to be obedient to Him, trust in Him and have a healthy fear of the Lord. He is in control of it all and He sees it all. He wants what is best for you. It is important for us to know that He is always watching, which means that we should want to please Him with all that we are.

Response//

Are you pleasing God? Is what you are doing pleasing Him?

Are you having trouble pleasing God? Are there some things that you need to cut out of your life so you can get closer to Him?

Do you find yourself in a lions den season? Do you feel far from God?

When you love the Lord, when you trust in Him, When you are obedient to Him and when you fear Him, the enemy won't have a chance with you. ***His voice will become like a lion without a roar.*** He may try to put things in your path, but it has no power because you have put your faith and Hope in Jesus! But some of you may not have that relationship but you want it today...

Do you want a relationship with Jesus today?

ALTAR//

Salvation prayer, worship and Prayer with leaders for the things above.