

**Welcome to the
Common Ground Café!**



Sunday, February 18, 2018

**Commitment That Counts
A Study of Daniel 6**

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When have you felt really good about something you did, only to have someone else be jealous or unhappy?

Studying Daniel 6 should prompt us to review our lives with three questions.

Question 1:

“Is my commitment to God as well-known as Daniel’s?”

Read the selection of Daniel 6:1-9 from the sermon notes.

How many traps could a satrap set if a satrap could set traps?
(Don’t answer that. Move along.)

How would Daniel’s peers describe him?

- Holier-than-thou
- Too good to be true
- Outsider
- A Threat

Why did the king issue his decree?

- He was outnumbered
- He was stupid
- He had an inflated ego
- Other: _____

Why are appeals to vanity so powerful when someone wants to get us to do something?

Daniel’s enemies built their entire scheme on Daniel’s faithfulness to God. If you were arrested and tried for being a Christian, would the evidence reveal you to be...

- ...not guilty?
- ...guilty in the second degree?
- ...guilty in the first degree?

Question 2:
**“Am I ready to accept the consequences of
my commitment to God?”**

Read the selection of Daniel 6:10-18 from the sermon notes.

How would you describe Daniel’s response to the edict?

- Rebellion
- Perseverance
- Faithfulness
- Plea for help

Daniel shows us that the law of God supersedes the law of the land. How do you reconcile what Daniel did with Romans 13:1? How does this square with your view on the separation of church and state?

According to John Piper, one lesson from this chapter is, “Prayer is more precious than life.” Does your prayer life reveal that you share this conviction?

You received the “Winning Ways” devotional book for free today. One way to improve your prayer life is to use it the next 40 days. Which time of day do you find best for these spiritual exercises: morning, lunchtime, or bedtime?

What was the king’s reaction when the satraps reported Daniel had violated the edict? (See verses 14, 16, and 18.)

Why was the king so distressed? Is he just a wimp, favoring whoever he happens to be with at the time? Or is he sincerely siding with Daniel? Explain your answer.

Most of us will have at least one “lion’s den” experience. Has your Christian faith ever made life difficult for you? If so, how was God your lifeline during that experience? Discuss.

Question 3:
**“Am I confident that God vindicates every person
who stays committed to him?”**

Read Daniel 6:19-23.

What does the word “vindicate” mean? Has God “vindicated” you when people have opposed you because of your faith? If you’re still waiting for “vindication,” what helps you be patient?

Read Daniel 6:24-28. Every intention of the satraps was reversed:

- ❖ They plotted to have Daniel killed. What happened instead? (See verse 24.)
- ❖ They forced through a law that stifled prayer to God. What happened instead? (See verses 25-27.)
- ❖ They intended to bring Daniel down from his highly favored position. What happened instead? (See verse 28.)

Sensitive Bible readers may be disturbed by the sentence on Daniel’s enemies. How would you explain what’s going on here?

Read Hebrews 11:1-2 and 11:32-40 and answer the following questions:

- ❖ In verse 33, when the writer mentioned someone “who shut the mouths of lions,” who do you think the writer was referring to?
- ❖ From verses 32-38, list the earthly victories some enjoyed and list the earthly losses others suffered.
- ❖ How does the truth in verses 39-40 sustain us whether we enjoy earthly victories or suffer earthly losses?



Close with praise reports and prayer requests