

THE UNSHAKEN BOOK OF DANIEL



Week 6: July 20-July 24

Theme: Integrity & Faithfulness (Chapter 6)

Weekly Memory Verse

“For he is the living God and he endures forever; his kingdom will not be destroyed, his dominion will never end. He rescues and saves, he performs signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth. He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions.”

– Daniel 6:26-27

Day 1: Integrity

Prayer of Illumination

Lord, help me to bring integrity and excellence to all that I do. Allow me to live and work in a way that brings honor to You. Amen.

Reading

Read Chapter 6 entirely, then focus on Daniel 6:1-5.

Meditation

What is the Lord revealing to you today through Daniel 6:1-5?

What do these verses say about God’s character?

How does this apply to us today?

Contemplation

Our actions are always under the watchful eye of those who have the desire to discredit us. In Daniel’s case, he led with diligence and integrity in a way that led to an elevated position. Daniel’s advancement brought a critical eye, and other leaders began to look for a way to find fault in him as it says in verse four, “...the administrators and the satraps tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel...”

God is glorified when those who profess to follow Him conduct themselves in such a way that the most critical eye may find no occasion for blame. It is our calling to honor God with our lives. Not even the malice of our enemies should distract us from a life of steadfast integrity.

Throughout this chapter, Daniel models leadership through consistent integrity and perseverance in prayer. We can be encouraged to lead in a way that brings honor to the Lord even in the face of criticism.

Reflection

How do you live and work with the integrity and excellence of Daniel?

How might God be positioning you to be used for His glory?

Have you experienced a scenario in which you were an object of malice or envy as a result of being elevated?

Is it possible that you have been the prideful one, letting envy lead you to a place of malice toward another that God has elevated? Are there steps of confession you need to take to rightly orient your heart before God?

Day 2: Admiration

Prayer of Illumination

Holy Spirit, help us to take a breath, pace ourselves, and see You in the simplicity of life. You're in all elements of our life leading and guiding us to all Truth. In Jesus' Name, Amen!

Reading

Read Chapter 6 entirely, then focus on Daniel 6:6-14.

Meditation

What is the Lord revealing to you today through Daniel 6:6-14?

What do these verses say about the human condition?

How does this apply to us today?

Contemplation

Jealousy is a terrible thing. Have you ever wondered what is inside of us that makes us despise the success of another? Why do we put mental, emotional, and physical energy into derailing another? When you read it, it sounds a bit ridiculous, doesn't it? Well, this is what Daniel is dealing with in this portion of Scripture.

Daniel 6:10 is important for several reasons. This should be our posture when tough times come. When we hear negative news, as Daniel did, we should run to our knees. Whining, crying and complaining have seldom changed our circumstances. Prayer most certainly can though! But there is another significance in that verse. When we start to get jealous we must know that our jealousy doesn't change others, it only affects us.

Why were the royal administrators jealous? Because what Daniel was doing was gaining him favor before King Darius. They could find no fault in Daniel. What if, instead of allowing jealousy to consume us, we adopt a spirit of admiration. I wonder what would have happened if these administrators would have asked Daniel for help or to introduce them to his God? What would have occurred if they would have asked Daniel to coach or mentor them?

You may have heard the phrase "turn your haters into escalators." How about we admire the greatness of God in others, instead of being jealous of them? Ask someone who is where you want to be to help you get where they are so you ultimately both grow!

Reflection

In what ways have we responded to negativity in life? Do we run to our knees?

Can you identify jealousy in your own life and heart?

Have you forgiven those who have expressed hatred towards you in the past? Could they come ask you for forgiveness and mentorship? How would you treat them?

Day 3: Tenacity

Prayer of Illumination

Living God, today as it begins anew, the cry of my heart is more of You. I open up my heart to You and invite You in. Come, Holy Spirit, come. I long for You, my body and soul are aching for You. Fill me with Your joy today. Cultivate in me a loyalty to tenaciously believe You for impossible things in my life. To tenaciously trust You with the well-being of my life. In Jesus' Name, Amen!

Reading

Read Chapter 6 entirely, then focus on Daniel 6:15-23.

Meditation

What is the Lord revealing to you today through Daniel 6:15-23?

What do these verses say about God's character?

How does this apply to us today?

Contemplation

Two words of great life describe the core of Daniel: faithful and trustworthy. The text tells us the king was convinced Daniel was a person of faithfulness. He declared it twice in verses 16 and 20. The Aramaic equivalent means *permanence, continuity*. That's how the king saw Daniel's loyalty to the living God: permanent and continuous. Then we read in verse 23 that the reason the king was overjoyed at Daniel's miracle rescue was due to Daniel's trust in God. The English word is another Aramaic word meaning, *to believe with certainty*. Sounds like tenacity, doesn't it?!

Faithfulness and trust don't grow randomly within us because we try really hard to make them happen. We also can't earn them! It's the Holy Spirit who cultivates them within us, like Daniel, as we intimately spend time with God each day, throughout the day. God is alive, and He wants us to be alive because we tenaciously believe and faithfully trust that He is. This only happens in intentional intimacy with God as we surrender ourselves to Him, as we admit our dependence on Him, as we open our hearts wide to Him, and as we spend time daily with Him.

Thank God, He's 100% committed to us, to cultivate within us this tenacious faith and trust to believe Him for impossible things!

Reflection

What impossible thing are you right now tenaciously believing God for in your life?

Describe what it would be like for you to know God so tenaciously that if you were accused of something and then received a death sentence, you would still remain completely confident in God.

Day 4: Patience

Prayer of Illumination

Heavenly Father, I ask for the confidence to hold fast to the words that You have spoken to me and the patience to endure the time it takes to see them come to pass. Amen.

Reading

Read Chapter 6 entirely, then focus on Daniel 6:24-28.

Meditation

What is the Lord revealing to you today through Daniel 6:24-28?

What do these verses say about God's character?

How does this apply to us today?

Contemplation

When reading the ESV Student Study Bible, there is a footnote associated with verse 28 that says, "This closing comment reminds the reader that most of Daniel's life was spent in exile. Yet God protected him right up to the time of King Cyrus, when Daniel's prayers for Jerusalem finally began to be answered."

Cyrus was God's chosen instrument to issue a decree which would release the Jews back to their homeland to rebuild Jerusalem. Multiple sources say that Daniel was likely in his 80's when he was thrown into the lion's den. Can you imagine spending nearly 65 years of your life praying multiple times a day without seeing anything come to pass?

Daniel showed a perseverance and patience that not many can boast of in today's day and age – with the likes of fast food and Amazon Prime, we have been conditioned to have our requests granted immediately to get what we want *now*. But God's method does not involve answering our prayer in the guaranteed two-day window. His ways are higher than ours and oftentimes don't work on our timeline. But, we can have confidence that He "is the living God, enduring forever," and that He hears every word that we speak to Him. In uncertain times, may we never underestimate the power of consistent and patient prayer.

Reflection

Is there a request that you were once consistent in praying about but have since stopped asking? Why did you stop?

Take time to circle back and lift up that request in prayer again.

Set a reminder to pray for this same request (and others) throughout your day/week.

Weekly Memory Verse

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Day 5: Pause & Reflect

Ask the Lord, journal, and pray through the following questions ...

God, what are some of the takeaways from Chapter 6 that you want to highlight in my life?

Spend time today posturing yourself to listen and reflect on each day's theme:

- Integrity
- Admiration
- Tenacity
- Patience

What is one thing you are going to do in response to this week's message and reading plan, and who is going to hold you accountable?

Write down one takeaway and one action step in a journal to commit to it.

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