### INTRODUCTION

- Being fed to lions (or even crucified) is quite gruesome when you consider how barbaric it was for men, women, and children to die so horribly for the amusement of others.
- This incident in Scripture is preachers far and wide to young and old. The applications are many ranging from God’s sovereignty over kingdoms, on justice, and on how God answers prayers – or doesn’t answer prayers.
- So, why does God seem ambivalent to so many of our prayers? Why does praying seem like a crapshoot or a shotgun blast where only a small percentage of our prayers ever seem to hit the mark? Shouldn’t our prayers be more like a sniper’s one shot, one kill – Pray once & get it done?

### PASSAGE | Comments
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**Daniel 6:1-10**
- Character Built on Spiritual Discipline
  - Darius the Mede takes a liking to Daniel
  - v1. 120 princes (NASB) or satraps (KJV) were equivalent to county mayors or state governors
  - v3. Daniel’s reputation was so outstanding, even while under control of the relatively new Persian Empire, King Darius was going to promote Daniel over all other territorial rulers
  - How can our reputation in the work place? We may not be the brightest or best looking, but is our loyalty, demeanor, and commitment the best it can be?
  - Remember – we have to give God something to work with
  - v4. Jealousy sets in with Daniel’s peers. Scripture doesn’t voice any concern from Daniel’s perspective
  - v5. Daniel’s enemies trouped him through his religious beliefs
  - Today, we are seeing more and more hostility toward Christians
  - Christians are being labeled as racists, intolerant bigots, hypocrites, & ignorer of “true” science, such as evolution
  - How should we respond to such charges? Do we protest, or go militant, or do we capitulate, or hide?
  - v10. Daniel kept to his routine. After the “Executive Order” was signed he prayed about it and gave thanks to God as it was his habit

**Daniel 6:11-17**
- Which is more effective for praying: standing, kneeling, sitting, prostrate face up or face down, walking, running or driving? Where should the hands be? Up? Down? Straight Out? In the pockets? Do we pray long or short prayers?
  - Daniel prayed 3x daily on his knees
  - David prayed morning, noon, and at night
  - David sat to pray
  - Solomon stood and spread his hands toward heaven
  - Ezra and the people prayed standing with hands lifted up, heads down, eyes to ground
  - Nehemiah prayed quickly
  - Prophets Anna fasted & prayed day and night
  - Jesus prayed all night
  - Jesus knelt down and prayed
  - Jesus prayed 2 sentences before raising Lazarus
  - Jesus laid down to pray
  - Jesus prayed while being tortured on the cross
  - Jesus prayed with his eyes open
  - Jesus stated, whenever you stand praying
  - Paul wanted men to lift up holy hands in prayer
  - The tax collector would not lift up his eyes to heaven
  - Paul and others prayed kneeling
  - Praying involves having a humble & worshipful heart more than having the right posture or position or even the right words. JUST PRAY!

**6:19-24**
- Why didn’t Daniel ask for clemency for his accusers, or at least for their family?
  - He might have asked for clemency, but it is not recorded for us
  - Or, Daniel simply witnessed Babylonian justice being carried out
  - This is reminiscent of when Esther called for an extra day to battle Jewish enemies and to hang the 10 sons of Haman
  - God is not opposed to executing justice against His enemies, especially after considerable time is given to them to repent, and to observe His patience and to hear His prophetic pronouncements
  - Daniel’s accusers were fully aware of Daniel’s faith in His God

**6:25-28**
- If national leaders proclaim their nation’s allegiance to God, will all the people become believers?...NO
  - The Crusaders of yesteryear and Muslims of today think forced conversions will bring peace – BUT it doesn’t work
  - God only wants people who choose to willingly love & serve Him
  - “People convinced against their will are of the same opinion still”

### CONCLUSION & APPLICATIONS

- Praying may be very subjective & even frustrating at times, but pray we must. God has chosen to use our prayers to accomplish His will in our lives and throughout the world to usher in His Kingdom. If there is a problem with us not getting all of our prayers answered, the problem is usually with us praying amiss. Always “prove all things”.
- Even God’s elite had mixed success as Hebrews 11:33-36 tells us: “…by faith [some] conquered kingdoms, performed acts of righteousness, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, …became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight; received back their dead by resurrection; [BUT] others were tortured, not accepting their release, so that they might obtain a better resurrection; and others experienced mockings and scourgings, yes, also chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented”
- Remember – this world is not about US, but about us bringing glory to God and ushering in His kingdom through our faithful prayers and testimony, whether we receive blessings or torments. That’s FAITH

**NEXT WEEK:** Daniel 7-8. Daniel foretells Israel’s destiny and we are introduced to the “Son of Man” and the “Ancient of Days”