

**Title: Beyond Caring - Daniel 6 1-10**

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**Read:**

<sup>1-3</sup> Darius reorganized his kingdom. He appointed one hundred twenty governors to administer all the parts of his realm. Over them were three vice-regents, one of whom was Daniel. The governors reported to the vice-regents, who made sure that everything was in order for the king. But Daniel, brimming with spirit and intelligence, so completely outclassed the other vice-regents and governors that the king decided to put him in charge of the whole kingdom.

<sup>4-5</sup> The vice-regents and governors got together to find some old scandal or skeleton in Daniel's life that they could use against him, but they couldn't dig up anything. He was totally exemplary and trustworthy. They could find no evidence of negligence or misconduct. So they finally gave up and said, "We're never going to find anything against this Daniel unless we can cook up something religious." <sup>6-7</sup> The vice-regents and governors conspired together and then went to the king and said, "King Darius, live forever! We've convened your vice-regents, governors, and all your leading officials, and have agreed that the king should issue the following decree: For the next thirty days no one is to pray to any god or mortal except you, O king. Anyone who disobeys will be thrown into the lions' den. <sup>8</sup> "Issue this decree, O king, and make it unconditional, as if written in stone like all the laws of the Medes and the Persians."

<sup>9</sup> King Darius signed the decree. <sup>10</sup> When Daniel learned that the decree had been signed and posted, he continued to pray just as he had always done. His house had windows in the upstairs that opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he knelt there in prayer, thanking and praising his God.

**Think:**

Daniel didn't care what the crazy law said he just wanted to praise his God. He didn't care what people thought of him he just wanted to pray to the one true God. In doing this he risked death, because the king had decreed that no one should pray to anyone other than him. I look at Daniel and it makes me think about my reaction to praying to my God in public. I look at Daniel's courage in the face of death and it makes me think of my reaction to worshipping my God in public. Am I willing to risk everything just so that I can give God the praise he is due? Or am I concerned about looking silly in front of my mates? When someone says they need help, do I offer to pray for them there and then, or am I concerned about what they will say? What's more important what other people think of me and you or what God thinks of us. Here is the newsflash other people are not thinking of you most of the time, they are busy worrying what you think about them. It takes courage to live out your faith at school, it takes courage to offer to pray for your mates at college. Do I, do you have that courage? Are we willing to put our image on the line, are we willing to put what others think about us to one side and praise and pray to the one true God? Let's take the courage of Daniel as our example and pray and praise our God where ever we are.

**Pray:**

Awesome God thank you for all that you do for me, please allow me to give you back a little as I praise your name in all of my life. Amen.

**Action:**

Did you mean that prayer? Next time the opportunity comes up to worship you God, are you going to go for it? Only you know if you are willing to put this dev into action. Bye.