

**I. The Trap Set - Dan. 6:10-14**

1. He learned - about the edict (**verse 10**)
  - he knew it could not be changed - so he prayed
- Rea        -but... this is not the first time he had prayed - it was a habit - discuss how the “habit” of prayer is a good thing
2. Prayed
  - private
  - regularly - three times a day
  - thanks to God
  - toward Jerusalem
  - “just as he had done before” - he maintained this spiritual discipline - not just an escape hatch
3. They found him praying (**verse 11**)
- Rea        -“caught” him??
4. They go to the king (**verse 12**)
  - did you not make a decree
  - the guilty will be thrown in the lion’s den
5. Daniel “pays no attention to you” (**verse 13**)
- Rea        -attempt to make this a personal attack on the king
6. The king’s reaction (**verse 14**)
  - distressed
  - he was determined to help
  - made every effort - a strategy of some type to save him
- Rea        **Ideas and Questions:**
  1. They knew just when and where to find him
  2. Do you have any enemies?
    - discuss how their jealousy made them Daniel’s enemy
    - note, Daniel does not attack them... they attack him
    - Satan is not inactive/ passive
  3. Regular prayer is the issue
    - not just lifting a prayer every now and then

**II. The Door Shut - Dan. 6:15-18**

1. They go and remind the king (**verse 15**)
- Rea        -he did not need reminding
2. The king gave the order (**verse 16**)
  - may God help you
3. He is “sealed” in (**verse 17**)
  - with the king’s seal - signet ring
  - meant that this decision was made and no one might change it
4. He returns but cannot eat (**verse 18**) nor sleep
- Rea        -feels personally responsible for this
- Rea        -realizes he’s been used
5. The writer makes the point that God is there even when He doesn’t seem to be

Rea -there is no word from God (at this point)

Rea **Ideas and Questions:**

1. Verse 18 ends in a dilemma - a catch 22
2. Note that Jesus (also) was shut in and sealed in the tomb
3. Caught by the words of his own mouth
4. Reference is made to God - may God help you

**III. The Tables are Turned - Dan. 6:19-24**

1. Hurried to the lion's den (**verse 19**)

Rea -goes in hope??

2. Called out to Daniel and invokes the name of Daniel's God (**verse 20**)

A. Has your God saved you?

Rea B. When we get in tight places often our only hope is "God"

3. Has your God saved you?

Rea -is this statement to be understood that the king has faith in God?

4. Daniel answered (**verse 21**)

A. May you live forever

Rea -respectful answer, but I see a friendship also involved - he knew that the king had struggled with this decision

B. God sent His angel and shut the mouth of the lions (**verse 22**)

-God had ruled and Daniel had been found innocent of the charges

Rea -discuss the jealousy of these enemies of Daniel

5. The king is overjoyed (**verse 23**)

-gave orders to take Daniel out of the den - no wound was found on him

-because he had trusted in God

Rea -the moral of the story - trust God even when He allows your enemies to throw you into prison

6. God does not always remove us unharmed

-He does, however, always provide grace - 2 Cor. 12 - Paul's thorn was not removed

7. Daniel's enemies were executed (**verse 24**)

-them and wives and children

-a harsh punishment but sensible to this king

Rea **Ideas and Questions:**

1. Is this jealousy or something else that caused them men to trap Daniel?
2. Daniel had a special relationship with King Darius - maybe his enemies were annoyed by that - and sought a chance to elevate their own status
3. Perhaps the enemies of Daniel wanted the king to do something that Daniel was opposed to - your enemies most often have a "reason." You may have spoken against them and they could not "get you" at that time, but pledged to "get back."
4. We do not see our persecutors as enemies - why is that?
5. God made a way in an impossible circumstance