**Going deeper in Daniel 6:10-23**

**INTRODUCTION**

Things have changed. Darius is the new King having deposed Belshazzar. He is a Mede from modern day Iraq and Iran. He has set up a new government structure but instead of killing Daniel with the rest of the previous administration he promotes him. Daniel is faithful and without fault. He is placed over all but the king. This creates jealousy among the other rulers and they plot to discredit Daniel or have him killed.

**READ** – *Read (passage) aloud. Read it several times. Listen for what the Spirit of God is saying, don’t just think about it.*

**10**Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before. **11**Then these men went as a group and found Daniel praying and asking God for help. **12**So they went to the king and spoke to him about his royal decree: “Did you not publish a decree that during the next thirty days anyone who prays to any god or human being except to you, Your Majesty, would be thrown into the lions’ den?” The king answered, “The decree stands—in accordance with the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed.”**13**Then they said to the king, “Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, Your Majesty, or to the decree you put in writing. He still prays three times a day.” **14**When the king heard this, he was greatly distressed; he was determined to rescue Daniel and made every effort until sundown to save him.**15**Then the men went as a group to King Darius and said to him, “Remember, Your Majesty, that according to the law of the Medes and Persians no decree or edict that the king issues can be changed.”**16**So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions’ den. The king said to Daniel, “May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!”**17**A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the rings of his nobles, so that Daniel’s situation might not be changed. **18**Then the king returned to his palace and spent the night without eating and without any entertainment being brought to him. And he could not sleep.**19**At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions’ den. **20**When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, “Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?”**21**Daniel answered, “May the king live forever! **22**My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, Your Majesty.” **23**The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den. And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.

**ENGAGE** – *Questions for going deeper. God is speaking… to you.*

1. Why do you think Darius went with the princes in making the law? Have there been times that you have felt tempted to rush and do something that you later regretted? What can we learn from this?

2. In verse 10 Daniel knows the law but continues to pray as was his custom. What are your customs, or spiritual practices?

3. What does his refusal to follow the new law tell you about what is important to Daniel? What does it say about his character? What would you do? Why?

4. Daniel knowingly placed his life in jeopardy by praying to obey and honor God. That takes a lot of trust and faith. Would you have that kind of faith and trust? What can we do to build our faith and trust?

5. In verses 16 and 19 the phrase, “whom you serve continually” is repeated. What do you think is significant about that? Can people say that about us? Do they see Jesus in us?

6. How is Daniel different from the other princes? How can we be different than others in difficult times? Why can we be different?

7. We see examples of this in the New Testament. Particularly with Paul and Silas in jail unjustly. Read Acts 16 for the story. Do you see parallels to Daniel story? What can we apply from these parallels?

**PRAY** – *God has spoken. So, reply.*

\*Thank the Lord for the example of Daniel.

\*Ask the Lord Jesus to give Daniel-like wisdom for the situations you are facing.

\*Ask the Lord to help you to show Jesus in the way you live and respond to persecution.

\*Ask the Lord to help your faith and trust in him to grow.

**LIVE** – *This is where the rubber hits the road.*

Daniel is not shaken by the situation. His trust is in God. When you are faced with things that shake you or are difficult this week how will you respond? Like Daniel or like the others? Choose to respond as Daniel. Learn to be the calm in the storm by establishing habits that build your faith.