



“The royal administrators, prefects, satraps, advisers and governors have all agreed that the king should issue an edict and enforce the decree that anyone who prays to any god or man during the next thirty days, except to you, O king, shall be thrown into the lions’ den. Now, O king, issue the decree and put it in writing so that it cannot be altered—in accordance with the laws of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed.” So King Darius put the decree in writing. 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.**”

(Daniel 6:7-10 - NIV)

Prayer: Almighty God, through the preaching of Your servants, the blessed Reformers, You caused the Light of the Gospel to shine forth. Grant that I may faithfully defend it against all enemies and joyfully proclaim it to the salvation of people everywhere to the glory of Your Holy Name; through Your Son, Jesus Christ my Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. AMEN



Order of Worship – The Common Service Without L.S. – pg. 15

- Greetings by the Pastor

- Invocation (Liturgy pg. 15)

Opening Hymn **C.W. 449** / TLH 282

- Confession of Sins

- Absolution

- Prayer and Praise (pg. 16)

- Prayer of The Day (pg. 17)

First Lesson– Daniel 6:6-12; 16-27 – Daniel in the Lion’s Den

PSALM OF THE DAY Psalm 46 (Lit. pg. 84 – Sung by Monica McInnis)

Second Lesson–Galatians 5:1-6 – Justified by Faith in Christ.

Gospel Lesson – Matthew 10:16-23 – Sheep among Wolves.

The Apostle’s Creed – (Pg. 19)

Sermon Hymn: **C.W. 446** / TLH 428

Sermon Text: Daniel 6:7-10

Sermon Theme: Hold The Course. – Daniel Did.

"Create in Me" – (pg. 20)

Offering (The plates will not be passed but are at the entrance doors)

Offering Prayer

Prayer of The Church

Lord’s Prayer (Traditional Version)

Hymn **C.W. 444** / TLH 518

Collect / Prayer (pg. 25)

Benediction

Hymn **C.W. 200** / TLH 262

SERMON TEXT: Daniel 6:7-10 (Daniel lived about 625 B.C. to approximately 530 B.C.)

Vs. 7 – The royal administrators, prefects, satraps, advisers and governors have **all** [it's amazing that ALL the government leaders agree] **agreed** that the king should issue an edict and enforce the decree that anyone who prays to any god or man during the next thirty days except to you. O king, shall be thrown into the lions' den.

Vs. 8 – Now, O king, issue the decree and put it in writing so that it cannot be altered – in accordance with the laws of the Medes and Persians which cannot be repealed.

Vs. 9 – So King Darius put the decree in writing.

Vs. 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.**

GREETING: Grace and peace to you from His Who is and Who was and Who is to Come! And from the seven spirits before His throne, and from Jesus Christ, Who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

Does anger gain friends?

In Daniel Chapter 6 we see that King Darius had appointed 120 satraps to govern the 120 provinces of his kingdom. (Persian and Mede Empire)

These 120 satraps were made accountable to 3 administrators.

One of those 3 administrators was Daniel.

Daniel was a Jew who had been carried away into captivity at the time of the Babylonian empire under King Nebuchadnezzar. (Note: God also allowed His servant Daniel to suffer / God had a plan.)

During the time that Daniel was in Babylon the Persian / Mede empire came into power and conquered Babylon.

As King Darius is organizing the Persian / Mede empire, he saw that Daniel was a skilled and talented individual who King Darius liked, as we learn from Daniel 6:14-16.

So Daniel is one of the 3 top administrators over the 120 satraps. The 120 satraps were jealous and angry and despised Daniel so much that they plotted to get Daniel out of the picture. The 120 Satraps would have despised Daniel all the more, because Daniel was a foreigner. Daniel was a Jew, and this new empire was Persian / Mede.

And so the anger and resentment of the 120 Satraps led them to devise a plan to have Daniel fed to the lions.

That plan of the 120 Satraps is described in Daniel 6:4-9.

These 120 Satraps spring their plan upon King Darius in short order and by surprise, and they also use the ego of King Darius by telling King Darius to make an decree that everyone in the land must pray to no god nor anyone else except to King Darius for a total of 30 days.

The King is obviously full of himself, and so he “signs” that is, places his seal upon the decree.

It is now law and cannot be broken or repealed according to the law of the Persians and Medes.

When Daniel learns of this decree, he simply continues with what he had always done.

He followed the direction which God gives in **Psalm 55:17**, “**I call to God and the Lord saves me. Evening, morning and noon I cry out in distress and He hears me.**”

Daniel is also following the direction which God gives through Solomon at the dedication of the Temple in Jerusalem. (I Kings 8:29, 44-51) – To pray toward Jerusalem and the Temple of the Lord. [**Not** as a type of good luck charm, but as an expression of faith in God, the Maker of Heaven and Earth.]

The 120 Satraps are filled with glee as they go to report to King Darius what it is that Daniel has done. They remind the King that his decree cannot be repealed and that it must be carried out.

We know what happened. King Darius ordered Daniel put into the lions' den.

King Darius is greatly distressed because he knew how good a worker Daniel was, yet the law could not be broken.

As King Darius has Daniel put into the lions' den he says to Daniel: **“May your God, Whom you serve continually, rescue you.”** (Dan. 6:16)

And God sent His angel to keep the mouths of the lions closed, and so the next day when Daniel was pulled from the lion's den, **“NO wound was found on him.”** (Dan. 6:23)

In this particular instance, the Lord God preserved His child Daniel from harm.

We need to remember that God does not always spare His children from every harm and danger and evil. Remember that God did allow Daniel to be carried into slavery by King Nebuchadnezzar in about 605 B.C. [Note others – Elijah, Jeremiah, Abel, Paul, Stephen etc.]

Sometimes God allows His children to even die. But of course as believers in our Lord and Savior, we know that when we die, we will wake up in heaven!

Daniel – Held The Course! Daniel remained faithful to the Lord God, Maker of Heaven and Earth.

Even though we see that Daniel held the course, we might wonder how much emotional stress he must have been going through after he heard about the edict, and then when he was put into the lions' den?

How high did his heart rate and blood pressure climb?

Let us return to the question that was asked at the beginning of this sermon.

Does anger gain friends? What ended up happening to the 120 Satraps who schemed and came up with the plan and then tricked King Darius into making the decree?

We are told in **Daniel 8:24** – **“At the king's command, the men who had falsely accused Daniel were brought in and thrown into the lions' den, along with their wives and children. And before they reached the floor of the den, the lions overpowered them and crushed all their bones.”**

On the one hand we might think; Great! Those satraps got what they deserved!

But on the other hand we need to feel sorry for them not recognizing what a great blessing Daniel was to their kingdom, and more importantly to listen to the message of the God of Creation, which Daniel proclaimed by his actions and words.

Today we are celebrating REFORMATION. There was another man that God gave great courage in an age of spiritual darkness. At a time when many preachers were proclaiming salvation by human works and effort, God raised up a man by the name of Martin Luther (November 10, 1483 – February 18, 1546).

God used Martin Luther to proclaim loud and clear the Word of God which tells us that we are saved through faith in Christ Jesus alone as the Holy Spirit led Martin Luther to Bible passages such as:

Romans 1:16-17 – “I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is **the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: ‘The righteous will live by faith.’** AND again in:

Ephesians 2:8-10 – “For it is by grace you have been saved, **through faith** – and this **not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.**”

The satraps at the time of Daniel, saw in Daniel a common enemy which united them ALL. (Note: Daniel 6:7) The Satraps were united on the losing side.

How often do we see political leaders who are ALL united?

At the time of Martin Luther, there were many who were against him and the Word of God which he preached. Even though Martin Luther suffered hardship and stress, the Lord gave him the strength to Hold the Course and remain faithful to the Word of our Lord Jesus Christ.

As believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, let us remain united as we serve our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Let us Hold the Course, even here in Northfield Twp. as we proclaim the Word of Christ in our community, among our family and friends, (and enemies) and as we look for opportunities to tell others about Jesus Christ their Risen and Living Savior.

For a while it looked like Daniel was the loser when he was thrown into the lions’ den.

But God spared him.

Daniel is now enjoying the blessings of heaven, as we all look forward to the Resurrection on the Last Day.

For a while, it looked like Jesus was the loser as was led away in the Garden of Gethsemane, as He was beaten and mocked during the “Kangaroo Court”, as the nails were driven through His body, as He hung upon the cross of Calvary scorned by passers by.

For a while it looked like death and the devil had defeated Jesus.

Yet on Easter Sunday He rose again victoriously. He said to His disciples who had locked themselves behind closed doors, “**Look at My hands and My feet. It is I Myself! Touch Me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see I have.**” (**Luke 24:39**)

On the day of our death, it may look like sin and death have won, but Jesus, our Living God and Savior will come again to take us and all believers to our heavenly home, where there will be no more stress from those who try to discredit us.

There will be no more aches and pains or unpaid bills.

Instead we will have those new glorified bodies forever in Heaven because of Jesus. AMEN

THEME: Hold The Course – Daniel Did!