



PURPOSE IN YOUR HEART

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- Our last class was, “**Let Thy Gifts Be To Thyself**”
- We talked about the 3 words that were written as Belshazzar’s epitaph
 - Mene, Mene, Tekel, Upharsin
- We suggested 3 words that could be chiseled on our tombstones

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- The first was: **REVERENCE**
- We talked about learning to revere God by:

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1. Intense worship

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2. Careful speech

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3. High personal standards

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4. Humble approach to life

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- The second was: **RELATIONSHIP**
- Like Daniel, we must pursue a **RELATIONSHIP** with God

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1. Admit your need of Him

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2. Believe in His forgiveness and presence in your life

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3. Commit to following Him - It's like a marriage relationship

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- The last of the three words was: **REALITY**
- We must demonstrate REALITY before God

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- Reality is the sum of the other two words, REVERANCE and RELATIONSHIP
- Reality means not looking for an escape from your life, but enjoying a REAL life with God, by living a life of REVERANCE of Him, and developing a RELATIONSHIP with Him

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- Our class this week is called, **“There Was an Excellent Spirit in Him”**
- Last week was a little like Déjà vu, right?
- Another King
- Another scary dream
- Thoughts that troubled him and kept him from his sleep
- The calling in of the Chaldeans, Magicians, Soothsayers and Wise Men
- Their complete inability to help him
- The King is so scared that his countenance changes
- Finally, Daniel comes in and solves the riddle
- The king is so pleased that he appoints him high up in the Government
- But, then what happened?

- In that night Darius the Mede came and overthrew the King
- But, look what happens to Daniel!
- Daniel 6:1-2
 - 1) It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom an hundred and twenty princes, which should be over the whole kingdom;
 - 2) And over these three presidents; of whom Daniel was first: that the princes might give accounts unto them, and the king should have no damage.
- Why would this happen?
- How is it that Darius could come out of nowhere, not know Daniel from Adam, and immediately “it please” him to set Daniel FIRST in charge over his WHOLE kingdom?
- Daniel 6:3
 - 3) Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because **an excellent spirit was in him**; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm.

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- ***An excellent spirit was in him...***

- What does that mean?
- This statement literally means that in Daniel spirit dominated or was uppermost

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- We normally think of the word "excellent" as a value
- For instance, we say " excellent " meaning fine, noble, admirable

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- Yet the meaning of the word has another signification
- Excellent is also something that excels, goes beyond, predominates, and the original word lying beyond this word excellent carries exactly that meaning
- So, in other words, Verse 3 is saying, “The Spirit excelled in Daniel”...
- But... What does it mean to have the Spirit excel in you?
- God works in us through His spirit

- To the extent that God is working in us a LOT, then the spirit would excel, right?
- What we see in Daniel's life is a man whose life was predominated by Spiritual things, not Material things
- It wasn't the King's Meat and the King's Wine that Daniel wanted – But, a relationship with His God that he sought after
- He wasn't looking to be made highest in command of the Kingdom – He simply wanted to serve God and do what God told him to do

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- We need to be like Daniel, and have our lives predominated by Spiritual things, and not Material things
- To live lives not concerned about the things around us, but more concerned about the things within us
- And what you'll find is that living a life like THAT, can get you in trouble...
- THAT can make others feel Guilty because their lives are centered on the Material
- THAT can make others jealous of the blessings you receive from God
- THAT can make you not liked by those around you...
- Daniel 6:4-5
 - 4) Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him.
 - 5) Then said these men, We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find *it* against him concerning the law of his God.

- So, they devised a plan...
- And look at what type of plan it was!
- Often, the only way people can attack you is through your religion
- That is how they got to Daniel

- Daniel 6:6-9

- 6) Then these presidents and princes assembled together to the king, and said thus unto him, King Darius, live for ever.

- 7) All the presidents of the kingdom, the governors, and the princes, the counsellors, and the captains, have consulted together to establish a royal statute, and to make a firm decree, that whosoever shall ask a petition of any God or man for thirty days, save of thee, O king, he shall be cast into the den of lions.
- 8) Now, O king, establish the decree, and sign the writing, that it be not changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not.
- 9) Wherefore king Darius signed the writing and the decree.

- Now, here comes the key...

- Look closely at the next **nine** words...

- Daniel 6:10

- 10) **Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed**, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.

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- They knew they would never stop that man of God from his daily times of prayer

- If they could make a decree against prayer...he would be found guilty!

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- What would you be found guilty of, if someone was watching you all alone in your house?

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- Don't you want to be found guilty of a dedicated life of prayer!

- When the decree was signed, Daniel could have stolen away into a closet to pray...

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- When facing trials, it's often easier to "pick your battles" and back away from fights that we don't have to fight...

- Don't back away from spiritual battles..

- Instead of backing away, Daniel approached his window and began to pray.

- Daniel knew the supplication of Solomon many years before.

- 1st Kings 8:44-45

- 44) If thy people go out to battle against their enemy, whithersoever thou shalt send them, and shall pray unto the LORD toward the city which thou hast chosen, and *toward* the house that I have built for thy name:
- 45) Then hear thou in heaven their prayer and their supplication, and maintain their cause.

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- Daniel knew the moment he turned his face toward Jerusalem, that God would hear his supplication and maintain his cause.

- Before his enemies could go to Darius, Daniel had already touched the heart of his King!

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- He knew that his “True King” would protect him from any other King

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- While they prepared a den of lions, Daniel’s God prepared an angel.

- What looked like Daniel’s demise, became his promotion!

- Daniel 6:11-13

- 11) Then these men assembled, and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God.
- 12) Then they came near, and spake before the king concerning the king’s decree; Hast thou not signed a decree, that every man that shall ask a *petition* of any God or man within thirty days, save of thee, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions? The king answered and said, The thing *is* true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not.
- 13) Then answered they and said before the king, That Daniel, which *is* of the children of the captivity of Judah, regardeth not thee, O king, nor the decree that thou hast signed, but maketh his petition three times a day.

- This news really crushes Darius, and he does whatever he can to stop it from happening

- Daniel 6:14-15

- 14) Then the king, when he heard *these* words, **was sore displeased with himself, and set *his* heart on Daniel to deliver him: and he laboured till the going down of the sun to deliver him.**

15) Then these men assembled unto the king, and said unto the king, Know, O king, that the law of the Medes and Persians *is*, That no decree nor statute which the king establisheth may be changed.

- After trying all day to get him off the hook, the men hold his law against him, and Darius has to go through with the punishment

- Daniel 6:16-17

16) Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast *him* into the den of lions. *Now* the king spake and said unto Daniel, Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee.

17) And a stone was brought, and laid upon the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own signet, and with the signet of his lords; that the purpose might not be changed concerning Daniel.

- But, look how much this king cares about Daniel:

- Daniel 6:18-19

18) Then the king went to his palace, and passed the night fasting: neither were instruments of musick brought before him: and his sleep went from him.

19) Then the king arose very early in the morning, and went in haste unto the den of lions.

- Can you hear the anxious tone of his voice?

- Daniel 6:20

20) And when he came to the den, he cried with a lamentable voice unto Daniel: *and* the king spake and said to Daniel, O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions?

- But, Daniel is alive and well...

- Daniel 6:21-22

21) Then said Daniel unto the king, O king, live for ever.

22) My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt.

- Now, imagine the joy in the King's voice!

- A whole night wondering about what would happen...

- Darius didn't have faith in the True God

- He didn't spend the night praying, he just spent a sleepless night worrying
- And he's dying to find out what happens
- And from down in the pit he hears Daniel's voice...

- Daniel 6:23-28

23) Then was the king exceeding glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God.

- So, Darius turns all of that anxious energy to good use!

- Daniel 6:24

24) And the king commanded, and they brought those men which had accused Daniel, and they cast *them* into the den of lions, them, their children, and their wives; and the lions had the mastery of them, and brake all their bones in pieces or ever they came at the bottom of the den.

- And he is moved to turn to the one True God

- The God that SAVES!

- Daniel 6:25-27

25) Then king Darius wrote unto all people, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth; Peace be multiplied unto you.

26) I make a decree, That in every dominion of my kingdom men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel: for he *is* the living God, and stedfast for ever, and his kingdom *that* which shall not be destroyed, and his dominion *shall be even* unto the end.

27) He delivereth and rescueth, and he worketh signs and wonders in heaven and in earth, who hath delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.

- And it's Déjà vu all over again!

- Daniel 6:28

28) So this Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius, and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

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- In your struggles, remember while it appears you are being overwhelmed...God has everything under His control!

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- When you call on the Name of the Lord...He hears and answers your prayer.
- Sometimes we are not aware of His moving until the end of the battle!

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- Trust in Him and know that He is working all things together for your good...
- He delivers and rescues and He is the God that SAVES!