

Sermon Notes – Daniel 6 – Prayer and Work

Your employer usually has one purpose – sometimes that purpose is making money, but sometimes they want to make the world a better place.

Godly people take their job very seriously. They believe in what they are doing and strive to do their best so that their organization is successful.

But it's also true, in almost every situation, there is somebody at your job or at your school, who are less concerned about the main purpose and are more concerned about themselves. It's human nature.

What should you get out of this sermon?

1. *Doing your best at your job, no matter what your job, is one way you bless the world.*
2. *There are people who don't want you to do your best.*
3. God will separate the efforts of those who bless from those who curse and make the world a better place.

Daniel is facing the same kinds of problems only on a much larger scale. His job is dealing with national problems.

To do his job well, he feels he must pray three times a day. Praying is the only "religious" thing we ever see Daniel do.

Read Daniel 6:1-9 – The Trap is Set

They look for skeletons in his closet. They look for corruption in his decisions. They can't find any. So they look for something different. He is religious.

This isn't about outlawing prayer. This is about the fight between goodness and corruption, generosity and selfishness.

The important question is how does Daniel respond?

Read Daniel 6:10 – Daniel Goes on as Usual

For Daniel, prayer was like breathing. He couldn't decide not to breathe if anybody outlawed it. So Daniel continued to pray.

What's he doing in all that prayer? He's thanking God for His goodness. He's sharing with God what decisions he needs to make. He's listening to what God might share with him about these decisions and other ways he might be able to bless the king. He's running through the promises that God has made to make this world a place of justice and compassion.

This daily time in prayer helps Daniel not to come unglued, not to have a cow, not to just get by, and not to cut corners.

What Daniel does is quietly acknowledge a power higher than the king and this gives him power to bless the king.

Read Daniel 6:11-23 – An angel shut the mouths of lions

Through this ordeal, the king has recognized the life of Daniel. He thought Daniel served him. But he's found out three incredibly important things.

1. Daniel serves the Living God.
2. Because Daniel serves the Living God, the king's own life has been blessed.
3. God will not allow good deeds to come to nothing.

Read Daniel 6:24 – The Kingdom Becomes a Better Place

Your good work is never in vain. It is always worth it. It is a blessing to this world and a blessing to God. You probably need to add to your connection to God. You need to spend more time in prayer.