

1. Jealous government officials

- a) Daniel 6:1-3 Why did King Darius retain one of conquered government officials for his new leadership team?
- b) Daniel 6:4a How did this decision impact the Persian government leaders?
- c) Daniel 6:4b-5 What conclusion did these jealous government officials come to after a careful investigation of Daniel's conduct?
- d) Our lives are also being carefully examined by critics and genuine seekers after truth. How can we ensure we are providing a faithful witness to those around us? (see Matthew 5:14-16 and John 8:12)

2. A plot to trap Daniel

- a) Daniel 6:6-9 What tactics did these jealous government officials use to pressure the King into signing the decree?
- b) Daniel 6:10 If Daniel was aware of the evil intentions of these jealous government officials, why didn't he expose their plan to King Darius or change his prayer schedule?
- c) Compare this test and the test Daniel's three friends faced on the plain of Dura.
- d) Consider also the example of the apostles before the Sanhedrin. Acts 5:26-29, 41-42. Why is it important to decide ahead of time how we will respond when pressured to compromise our faith?

- e) Share a time when a person or organization tried to coerce you to act in a way that was contrary to the Word of God. What was the outcome?

3. Caught in a trap

- a) Daniel 6:11-13 How did the jealous government officials react when Daniel continued his prayers to God "as was his custom"?
- b) Daniel 6:14-18 What was the reaction of King Darius when he realized he himself had also been trapped by these jealous government officials?
- c) What is the best course of action when we realize we have been caught in a trap laid by an enemy?

4. Vindication

- a) Daniel 6:19-20 What can we learn as we observe the behavior of King Darius the following morning?
- b) Daniel 6:21-22 What impresses you as you hear Daniel's testimony to King Darius?
- c) How does Daniel's powerful witness impact the King? Daniel 6:23, 24, 25-27, 28
- d) Not everyone is delivered like Daniel. Why?
- e) What important lessons can we learn from Daniel's experience for our lives today?

