

In The Mouth of Adversity

In one way or another we have all faced adversity. It comes in many forms and for many reasons. This can be overwhelming for some and cause some to be so frustrated one gives up on what they believe and sadly sometimes takes their own lives.

We see many cases of individuals facing adversity throughout the Bible. One I would like to examine for a few moments comes from the Old Testament. He was a man of power in the kingdom of Darius. A man who continued to serve God. A man that many were jealous and envious of because of the God he worshipped. A man who did no wrong but was punished because of this. This man is Daniel.

As we examine this for a few moments let us remember who we want on our side (**Psalms 46:1**). It is God who is a stronghold, a refuge, and a place of safety. Consider with me the example of Daniel for a few moments.

Daniel was a man who faced adversity. However, he was a man as we study about him as a man of power (**Daniel 6:1-2**). He was one of three governors who the satraps answered to, and the governors answered more directly to the king. We see a check and balance system installed here.

The men knew of Daniel and knew of the God he worshipped (**Daniel 6:3-9**). Daniel was a man who had an excellent spirit in him. He was a man of good reputation (**Proverbs 22:1**). It is better to have this good name than all the money in the world. These men plotted against Daniel hoping to find some sort of charge they could bring against him. They could not find any charge. Instead, they puffed the king up to make a decree that all were to bow down to him and him alone. The king agreed to this and signed the decree. The consequences for not following this decree was death by being thrown in the den of lions.

However, this did not stop Daniel from his continued prayers and worship to God (**Daniel 6:10-17**). He was still earnest in his prayers, offering them three times daily. Even though this decree was signed Daniel knew that it was best to still follow and worship God. The people though caught Daniel bowing to his God and reported this to the king. The king was sorry he made the decree. He now even had his eyes open to the plot these people had in wanting to make the decree. He was sorry about this but continued to have Daniel delivered to the king and to be placed in the den of lions. Before the doors shut, he said to Daniel that his God would deliver him.

We see that Daniel was saved from the den of lions (**Daniel 6:18-23**). Darius had a long night being concerned about Daniel. Finally, when morning came, he went to find Daniel safe from the mouths of the lions. Daniel had been spared thanks to God. The angel was sent to shut the mouths of the lions so that Daniel would have no harm to him.

However, the same could be said about those causing this adversity against Daniel (**Daniel 6:24-28**). All these men and their families were punished having the same punishment rendered to them. In these moments Darius made a decree, to all concerning the God of Daniel. All men must fear and tremble before the living God!

We face some similar adversity in our lives. Especially talking about being children of God. Being a Christian is a rewarding yet challenging road to choose (**Matthew 7:13-14**). We have two roads from which we can choose. One is an easy road, no effort is needed, and many decide to go down that road. Sadly, it is a way of destruction. Then there is a more challenging road, it is more difficult, it does require our effort, and few go down this road. It is a road that leads to eternal life. It is way that follows and does God's will.

I think about Daniel and what he faced, and we are against a similar adversary today (**I Peter 5:8**). We have a lion walking about seeking to devour anyone and anything that comes in its path. We have all faced in diverse ways this adversary and faced adversity. However, we can overcome this by being sober (clear minded) and vigilant in our efforts to overcome the wiles of this roaring lion.

Being a Christian can be challenging especially when some of this adversity comes in the way of family being against us at times just for being a Christian (**Matthew 10:34-39**). Jesus did not come to bring peace but instead a sword. Families will be against each other at times for the sake of Christ. This is a sad situation, however, if we can manage this adversity by seeking and doing God's will, we can be saved and

inherit eternal life! I do not wish upon anyone this strife because it is very taxing weighing a heavy burden on us, but we must overcome by continuing to seek and do the will of God.

Think about those in Asia Minor facing adversity (**Revelation 2:8-11**). These individuals were being completely ruined physically speaking. They lost their livelihoods, their way of living, and being committed to prison. However, notice what Jesus says: they would be committed to prison but if they were willing to endure what would happen? They would have the crown of life! This was and is for the faithful!

We face adversity in our life, Daniel overcame this adversity and so can we! We can by being born of God (**I John 5:4**). How is this done? It is done by abiding in God and Jesus Christ His Son (**I John 3:5-6**). We are to not give in to sin, but instead give in to the doctrine of God (**II John 9**). Will you abide in what God has said will save?

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