

September 5th-11th

Faith in the Wild

In this lesson you will learn three ways to have faith in the wild.

Intro: Have you ever seen wild animals in their natural habitat? It can be a huge, startling, stark contrast to the animals you see caged up at the local zoo. The animals who are free are full of life, happy, and thriving, while the ones in captivity seem to be depressed and restricted. The same thing can happen to us as Christians. We can live safe, civilized lives shackled by; fear, opinions of others, and political pressure of society. Don't make the mistake of living in a cage of docile, safe faith. Jesus didn't come to Earth to make us nice Christians, but to make us dangerous to the kingdom of darkness.

I. Daniel had Convictions

- A. Daniel refused to do what was wrong in God's eyes even before godless kings. When Daniel arrived in Babylon with his three friends, he purposed in his heart not to defile himself with the king's food. He petitioned the king's officer to eat only water and vegetables. Daniel refused to let his conditions change his convictions. He was sold out to following God in spite of his society going in the opposite direction.

II. Daniel's friends had Commitment

- A. King Nebuchadnezzar made a decree throughout the kingdom that everyone must bow down to his image as soon as they heard the music with no exceptions. When the king found out that Daniel's friends wouldn't bow down, he became furious with them and had them thrown in the hottest fiery furnace. In spite of the pressure from society to bow down, and the threat of death from the king, the friends refused to bow down. They remained committed to serving and worshipping Jehovah alone.

III. Daniel had Courage

- A. Daniel's enemies in the government conspired against him in order to kill him. They convinced the king to sign a law that would forbid prayer or worship of any god except the king. Once Daniel heard about the new law, he continued to do what he'd always done. He prayed three times a day to the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Dan 6:10). Daniel knew the penalty of doing this was death in the lion's den. Yet, he stayed faithful to God and remained courageous in the midst of a den of hungry lions.

Discussion Questions

1. Do your convictions break under pressure from society around you?
2. Are your inner circle friends committed to serving God whole-heartedly?
3. Is your faith courageous and bold in spite of outside threats?