Sermon Notes

Daniel 6:1-3 Darius the Mede decided to divide the kingdom into 120 provinces, and he appointed a high officer to rule over each province. 2 The king also chose Daniel and two others as administrators to supervise the high officers and protect the king's interests. 3 Daniel soon proved himself more capable than all the other administrators and high officers. Because of Daniel's great ability, the king made plans to place him over the entire empire.

Daniel 6:4-5 4 Then the other administrators and high officers began searching for some fault in the way Daniel was handling government affairs, but they couldn't find anything to criticize or condemn. He was faithful, always responsible, and completely trustworthy. 5 So they concluded, "Our only chance of finding grounds for accusing Daniel will be in connection with the rules of his religion."

James 3:15-16 15 For jealousy and selfishness are not God's kind of wisdom. Such things are earthly, unspiritual, and demonic. 16 For wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there you will find disorder and evil of every kind.

Daniel 6:6-9 6 So the administrators and high officers went to the king and said, "Long live King Darius! 7 We are all in agreement—we administrators, officials, high officers, advisers, and governors—that the king should make a law that will be strictly enforced. Give orders that for the next thirty days any person who prays to anyone, divine or human—except to you, Your Majesty—will be thrown into the den of lions. 8 And now, Your Majesty, issue and

sign this law so it cannot be changed, an official law of the Medes and Persians that cannot be revoked.” 9 So King Darius signed the law.

Daniel 6:10 10 But when Daniel learned that the law had been signed, he went home and knelt down as usual in his upstairs room, with its windows open toward Jerusalem. He prayed three times a day, just as he had always done, giving thanks to his God.

1 **Kings 8:29-30** 29 May you watch over this Temple night and day, this place where you have said, ‘My name will be there.’ May you always hear the prayers I make toward this place. 30 May you hear the humble and earnest requests from me and your people Israel when we pray toward this place. Yes, hear us from heaven where you live, and when you hear, forgive.

Daniel 6:11-14 11 Then the officials went together to Daniel’s house and found him praying and asking for God’s help. 12 So they went straight to the king and reminded him about his law. “Did you not sign a law that for the next thirty days any person who prays to anyone, divine or human—except to you, Your Majesty—will be thrown into the den of lions?”

“Yes,” the king replied, “that decision stands; it is an official law of the Medes and Persians that cannot be revoked.”

13 Then they told the king, “That man Daniel, one of the captives from Judah, is ignoring you and your law. He still prays to his God three times a day.”

14 Hearing this, the king was deeply troubled, and he tried to think
of a way to save Daniel. He spent the rest of the day looking for a
way to get Daniel out of this predicament.

Daniel 6:15-18 15 In the evening the men went together to the
king and said, “Your Majesty, you know that according to the law
of the Medes and the Persians, no law that the king signs can be
changed.”

16 So at last the king gave orders for Daniel to be arrested and
thrown into the den of lions. The king said to him, “May your God,
whom you serve so faithfully, rescue you.”

17 A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den. The
king sealed the stone with his own royal seal and the seals of his
nobles, so that no one could rescue Daniel. 18 Then the king
returned to his palace and spent the night fasting. He refused his
usual entertainment and couldn’t sleep at all that night.

19 Very early the next morning, the king got up and hurried out to
the lions’ den. 20 When he got there, he called out in anguish,
“Daniel, servant of the living God! Was your God, whom you
serve so faithfully, able to rescue you from the lions?” 21 Daniel
answered, “Long live the king! 22 My God sent his angel to shut
the lions’ mouths so that they would not hurt me, for I have been
found innocent in his sight. And I have not wronged you, Your
Majesty.” 23 The king was overjoyed and ordered that Daniel be
lifted from the den. Not a scratch was found on him, for he had
trusted in his God. 24 Then the king gave orders to arrest the men
who had maliciously accused Daniel. He had them thrown into the
lions’ den, along with their wives and children. The lions leaped on
them and tore them apart before they even hit the floor of the den.

25 Then King Darius sent this message to the people of every race
and nation and language throughout the world:

“Peace and prosperity to you!

26 “I decree that everyone throughout my kingdom should tremble
with fear before the God of Daniel.

For he is the living God,
and he will endure forever.
His kingdom will never be destroyed,
and his rule will never end.
27 He rescues and saves his people;
he performs miraculous signs and wonders
in the heavens and on earth.
He has rescued Daniel
from the power of the lions.”

Action Steps:

1. Build consistency in your devotions by setting aside time to intentionally pray once per day this week.
2. Remove the things in your life that are keeping you from living with integrity.
3. Show up consistently when nobody is watching.