

THEME: MAKING GOD KNOWN BY BEING FAITHFUL

TEXT: DANIEL 6:1-28

PROPOSITION: God reveals himself when He rescues His faithful servants who are the vision bearers. God also punishes those who oppose His faithful servants.

INTRODUCTION

When you buy Coca-Cola you are buying what is inside not the bottle. What matters is what is inside a person's heart, not the external, the appearance, the tribe or the Certificates a person has. Certificates hanging on a wall don't make you a decent person, they just show how much education you have. Daniel was a captive who feared God and was faithful even in a foreign land. Because of Daniel's Faithfulness God saved him from King Nebuchadnezzar's wrath when he revealed to Daniel the dreams that the King had dreamt and interpretation. Because of Daniel's Faithfulness God gave Daniel special ability to interpret dreams and visions, this made him be promoted to very high ranks even in a foreign land. (Former US president Barak Obama is a Luo but he ruled the most powerful nation in the world). It does not matter your tribe but what is inside you that people are looking for. (Faithfulness and Vision).

1. FAITHFUL PEOPLE OF GOD SUPERCEED THE ORDINARY (Daniel 6:1-3)

- a.** Daniel proved himself capable than all the others because of His faithfulness and fear for God.
- b.** God Almighty bestows Wisdom, Knowledge and Vision on His Faithful servants. Daniel being a foreigner was Faithful to God and God gave him supernatural wisdom to be a vision bearer and great leader in a foreign land. Vision is never stolen, Daniel did great things because he had a clear vision. To be wise is to invest in and on the Vision holder. King Darius invested on the vision holder Daniel and there was success. Whom have you invested on?

- c. All great Kings who succeeded in the Old Testament had a prophet behind them. Not necessarily a wife. You cannot succeed alone. All athletes and footballers including Merci have a coach behind them. Who is your mentor?
- d. Never follow a lazy person who cannot deliver. Never follow empty people. Never invest on superficial people, you will never succeed in life.
- e. It is not what you have in your life that matters, but whom you have in your life that matters. Because of Daniel's great ability the King Darius made plans to place him over the entire empire. Whom do you have in your life?

2. FAITHFUL PEOPLE OF GOD ARE SUCCESSFUL AND FACE JEALOUSY AND OPPOSITION

(6:4-9)

- a. It is a fact that no matter how much you care for people there will always be some people who will never care back. Not everybody is amused by your success and extraordinary performance. Many people will envy you with jealousy and wish the worst. Some will go to an extent of planning evil for you. Just as these administrators did for Daniel. (Remember the same happening for Joseph in Genesis 37)
- b. Let nothing evil to implicate you of any wrong doing be found in you. These administrators, governors and high officials could find nothing to implicate Daniel because he was Faithful and loyal to the King and the country. Lets not forget Daniel is an Administrator and high official in a heathen foreign land of unbelievers.
- c. How do you conduct yourself among unbelievers? Do you move with the crowd and say lets do it because everyone is doing it? Are you faithful to God and to your boss? What is your attitude? Either you control your attitude or your attitude towards people controls you.

- d. These administrators planned evil for a faithful man of God through inserting a clause on worship in the country's constitution. But the target was Daniel. Some constitutional amendments, laws or policies may be targeting to punish someone. They could even be meant for you faithful man or woman of God.
- e. The quality of people you have around you will determine where and how far you will go. King Darius was misadvised by jealous unfaithful administrators around him who had no vision at all. Many leaders have been brought down by those people around them.
- f. These people could not think, they reacted when they learnt the King had plans to place Daniel over all the empire. It is easier to react than to think. If you lead ten fools you become the eleventh. And Darius became a fool when he signed the law regarding worshipping the King.

3. FAITHFUL PEOPLE OF PERSIST IN THEIR FAITHFULNESS DESPITE OPPOSITION (Daniel 6:10-16)

- a. Never change your good behavior of faithfulness and lifestyle despite the opposition. Daniel was a prayerful man who knew the secret of success is prayer.
- b. Faithful people of God and vision bearers may not move with the crowd no matter what happens. Daniel did not move with the crowd. It is not easy drawing the line between being nice and not hurting people and standing for what you believe. This is something you must learn.
- c. Vs. 13. Your name changes when people start fighting you and opposing you. "That man, one of the captives" Daniel is no longer addressed by his title as an Administrator. People will call you funny names that have no respect.
- d. The King is reminded that it is in the law that those who break that law should be thrown in the den of lions. The Law (the constitution) is not serving the people. Instead it seems it is the people who are serving the law.

4. FAITHFUL PEOPLE ARE SAVED BY GOD DESPITE THE CIRCUMSTANCES (Daniel 6:19-22)

- a. God may allow certain circumstances to happen to his faithful people so that He may reveal Himself when He acts and comes to their rescue. God allowed Daniel to be thrown into the den of hungry lions.
- b. God may allow such bad things to happen to you being caused by evil men, but the power of God will be revealed when He rescues you. What could you be undergoing now? Opposition? Persecution? Isolation or alienation? You may also have been victimized like Daniel. Just trust in God. Daniel was saved from the hungry pack of lions because he was found innocent and faithful. Vs. 22
- c. God reveals Himself and makes himself known when he does the miracle in your life because of your Faithfulness. People will see the power of the God you trust in.

5. THOSE WHO FIGHT AND OPPOSE FAITHFUL PEOPLE OF GOD WILL THEMSELVES BE DESTROYED (Daniel 6:24)

- a. Those who maliciously accused Daniel were themselves arrested and thrown in the den of lions. Those who fight people of God who are the vision bearers will be destroyed by God. (Remember the story of Herman who was against Mordecai and all Israelites people of God). He was hung on the same gallows he had erected for Mordecai. These accusers of Daniel were thrown in the same den of lions they had purposed to have Daniel killed in. That is how powerful our God is.
- b. By fighting and opposing faithful people of God you may bring catastrophes, curses and even death to your family. Those who maliciously fought Daniel had their families, children and wives thrown in the den of lions. They did not even reach the floor of the den but were torn to pieces and eaten even before they

reached the floor. This was at a place where a Faithful man of God had spent the whole night with the lions and not eaten.

- c. Miracles that God does in your life reveal him as a testimony to unbelievers. The saving of Daniel from the Lions made the heathen King Darius believe in the God of Daniel. (Vs. 26-28) People will witness the power of God when he does the great miracles in your life as His faithful servant.

Remember:

To be faithful: It takes many years to build trust, but it takes just a few seconds to destroy it. You are responsible for what you do no matter how you feel about it, therefore always be faithful and do the right thing. But if you do the right thing for the wrong reason it is still wrong.

CONCLUSION

God Almighty bestows Wisdom, Knowledge and Vision on His Faithful servants. Daniel being a foreigner was Faithful to God and God gave him supernatural wisdom to be a vision bearer and great leader in a foreign land. Vision is never stolen, Daniel did great things because he had a clear vision. To be wise is to invest on the Vision holder. King Darius invested on the vision holder Daniel and there was success. The quality of people you have around you will determine where and how far you will go. King Darius was misadvised by jealous people around him who had no vision. It is easier to react than to think. If you lead ten fools you become the eleventh. But God saved Daniel from being mulled by the Lions because he was Faithful and was the vision bearer. Those who fight people of God who are the vision bearers will be destroyed by God. Yes God reveals Himself and makes himself known when he does the miracle in your life because of your Faithfulness.