

When there is no way

Daniel 6

No Outlet: Dead End

What kinds of dead ends do people encounter?
What is it like to hit a dead end?

King Darius's Fears

A new king in a vast kingdom
Rebellion & Lost tax income

Daniel 6

1-4: Daniel rose in power, and others plotted against him

5-9: They plotted to trap Daniel through His devotion to God

"Why do the nations rage" against God? (Psalm 2)
Swarm, conspire, mob (verses 6, 11, 15)

10: Daniel's prayer life was unchanged by threat of death

11-15: The accusers pounced, and the king couldn't save Daniel

16-18: Daniel was fed to the lions: king and Daniel at a dead end

19-24: Daniel was saved by God, and his accusers were judged

25-27: The king's testimony:

the living God whose kingdom never ends rescues and saves

28: God blessed Daniel in the new kingdom

The Impossible Situation for Daniel

- The 'swarming' and conspiring of so many high officials
- The unchangeable law of the Medes and Persians
- Not even the king could find a way to rescue Daniel
- The sealed pit so no one could rescue him
- Hungry lions and the powerful natural instinct to kill & eat
- So the king asked: "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?"
- Daniel: "My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions."

The Big Idea

God uses His limitless wisdom and power to deliver those who trust in Him (in His way and time, which is often deeper into trouble)

Servant of the Living God

Not just alive, but also

Active, powerful, awesome, almighty
AND He is actively involved in our world



What no other power in the world could do, God did (and does)

This does NOT mean God always delivers when or how we hope

The greater the challenge, the greater the glory when God rescues
Like Lazarus (John 11)

We wait with eager expectation for the full deliverance of God

At the resurrection at Jesus' return

Until then, we will sometimes (often?) experience...

Divine silence & apparent inaction

To grow and show our faith

And to show His greater glory

Application

Trust the Living God

Expressed in...

Praying to the Living God

Obeying God's instructions

In the extreme

By practicing trust in God in the mundane

If you and I aren't faith-filled in little, we won't be faith-filled in much

Give testimony to God's deliverance

The impossible situation for Jesus that saves us

The 'swarming' and conspiring of His opponents

The unjust but unstoppable judgment against Jesus

Not even the Roman governor could rescue Jesus

Death itself

The sealed tomb

Jesus died to prove that not even death could hold Him!

And it proved His total trust (prayer & obedience) in the Father

We are saved by His faithfulness and power

Our dead ends can be a doorway to the Living God

Reflection Questions for later today or this week...

1. What dead ends have you hit, or are you in now?
2. How have you seen God deliver? What have you done, or might you do, to give praise to God before people for what He has done?
3. What makes it hard to pray in faith? What helps you pray in faith?
4. What helps you be faith-filled in the mundane things of life?