



Life Lessons from the Book of Daniel Chapters 1-6

Chapter 2 – Characteristics of faith in the face of crisis

How do we respond in a godly manner to crisis in our lives?

Daniel's divine commission is to be the vehicle of God's revelation. Daniel is God's man for a crisis. Daniel takes his uncompromising character that we learned about last week in chapter one, and applies here in chapter two, to withstand the crisis that he's going to get involved with in explaining and interpreting the king's dream.

The Plot: God selects Nebuchadnezzar's, a pagan king to reveal to him a great historical prophetic truth, in a dream. Nebuchadnezzar forgets it, so he gets all the brain trust of the Babylonian empire together to explain and interpret it. Nobody can. King's going to kill every wise man if nobody steps forward. In steps Daniel, God's voice. The situation looks dismal, but it was by divine design. Only when things seem impossible is when God's hand is undeniably present.

Daniel lived an uncompromising life and God gave him "understanding in all visions and dreams." Daniel confronts the king. Six characteristics are displayed by Daniel here, in the face of crisis. Let us consider them:

1. Daniel had composure (Daniel 2:14) The Word says "he spoke *wisdom and tact*. He never lost his cool. It shows he had this amazing confidence in God.

Six characteristics of faith in the face of crisis (cont.):

2. Not only is Daniel composed, he was courageous (vs. 16). To go head to head with a king, and come out controlling the crisis. Wow! Truth is, when you know God is on your side you can be outrageously courageous.

3. Daniel sought communion with God (vs. 17). Daniel and his friends *plead for mercy from the God of heaven concerning this mystery*. They prayed! Daniel's confidence was in God, so he immediately sought communion with the Lord.

THE BEST WAY TO APPROACH A CRISIS IS TO GO TO OUR KNEES IN PRAYER.

4. In crisis and under trial, there is always an opportunity and the need for praise (vs. 19). *Then Daniel praised the God of heaven*. Daniel praised God. Daniel gave the glory to God.

5. Crisis finds its way into everyone's life. Daniel is reminded that he is not alone in this crisis, so he asked in verse 2:24; "Do not execute the wise men of Babylon." Daniel displayed compassion amid crisis.

6. Daniel, with his faith under fire, shows great humility (vs. 27-28). Daniel clearly states that it is God who determines and reveals the future, not men. Daniel, is simply an instrument of God. He accepts no credit for God's knowledge. Daniel can't take any credit for this interpretation. He's not anybody special.

In crisis, draw from the Holy Spirit dwelling within you, composure, courage, communion, praise, compassion and humility. These strengths from God will see you through your trials.

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