

Daniel 6:3

Then this Daniel distinguished himself above the governors and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king gave thought to setting him over the whole realm.

I don't know if you ever thought about it, but as you read today's verse, did you realize that in today's terms it would mean that Daniel was getting a promotion in his job? But as you go on to read this story about Daniel, this is the beginning of a story that we all know and love, about Daniel being thrown into the Lions den. But if you glazed over this verse, you would never realize that the reason Daniel was thrown into the lions den, was that his coworkers were jealous because Daniel was getting a promotion and not them. And we see that as we continue to read on:

† ***Daniel 6:4 So the governors and satraps sought to find some charge against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find no charge or fault, because he was faithful; nor was there any error or fault found in him.***

Think about that for a moment. Daniel was so faithful to his job, and making sure he was honest and trustworthy, that his coworkers couldn't find any fault in his job or how he did his job.

When you read that, doesn't it make you wonder if others could say the same about you and your job? Are you a hard worker, faithful, and honest at your job?

Have you ever taken anything from a paperclip to printing out things on the company printer for your own personal use without asking?

Have you ever lied on your timecard or do you show up late for work every once in a while and even leave early, yet still expecting the same pay for less work?

I know this is not a fun devotional for a Monday, yet it is still something for us all to think about. But there is more.

Since Daniel's coworkers, or let's say your coworkers, are trying to get you in trouble, simply because you are an honest, hard worker and they like to goof off and are always late or leaving early and steal from the company. So like Daniel they can't find anything wrong in your work ethics, so then what would they do? Let's read on and find out what Daniel's coworkers did.

† ***Daniel 6:5 Then these men said, "We shall not find any charge against this Daniel unless we find it against him concerning the law of his God."***

So, your coworkers can't find any fault in your work ethics, and since they know you are a Christian, they decide to attack you with your relationship with Jesus and try to find fault in your walk with the Lord.

Now as you read on about Daniel (I would encourage you to read on in chapter 6) we read that Daniel's coworkers deceive their boss (the king) and with that deception, Daniel is thrown into the lions den, and why? Because he was doing what he did everyday, he had a relationship with the Lord and was praying.

† **Daniel 6:11** *Then these men assembled and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God.*

So Daniel's coworkers found Daniel doing what he always did, praying, and in their deception, they made having a relationship with God (praying to God) to be against the law for the next 30 days. Once they told the king what Daniel was doing, the king knew he was deceived, but he could not break his own law, so Daniel was thrown into the lions den.

But I have to wonder if Daniel's coworkers went back to Daniel's house when he was in the den of lions, to try to find some dirt on him. I can guarantee they didn't.

So once again, is this were you, and your coworkers, or let's bring it more towards the things that happen today, the News Media goes into a frenzy looking for any dirt on you, would they find any in your home, on your cell phone or computer? Would your family or neighbors have dirt on you? What about things in your car or looking into your bank account, what kind of dirt would the media have a field day with by looking into those things?

Or think of it this way, if the rapture were to happen before you could finish reading this devotional, and you were caught up into heaven, what would your coworkers find in your desk, your work space, in your locker at work or even school?

Or, what would those left behind find in your home? Would it leave evidence that you are a Christian, with your bible showing wear and tear with highlights and underlined passages and notes in your bible. Or would they shake their heads wondering why all those Christians were taken up to heaven, but what you left behind shows no evidence of being a Christian?

Remember the bible give us these true stories, like Daniel in the lion's den, in the bible to help us learn from them. So what would our take away be for us from this? Simply having integrity at your job, and in your home show's if you are a real Christian, or just like everyone else in the crowd of non believers.

† **Psalm 26:1** *Vindicate me, O LORD, For I have walked in my integrity. I have also trusted in the LORD; I shall not slip.*

† **Proverbs 10:9** *He who walks with integrity walks securely, But he who perverts his ways will become known.*

† **Titus 2:7-8 (MSG)** *But mostly, show them all this by doing it yourself, incorruptible in your teaching, your words solid and sane. Then anyone who is dead set against us, when he finds nothing weird or misguided, might eventually come around.*