

“Preparing for Tomorrow”

Script - Dan. 6:10

A. Habits

1. Definition -

- a. An acquired behavior pattern regularly followed until it has become almost involuntary: (the habit of looking both ways before crossing the street).
- b. Customary practice or use: Daily bathing is an American habit.
- c. A particular practice, custom, or usage: the habit of shaking hands.
- d. a dominant or regular disposition or tendency; prevailing character or quality:

2. Habits are a funny thing, they can either help or hurt us throughout our lifetime.

- a. What are some helpful habits? Getting enough rest. Regular exercise. A good diet. Punctuality. Faithfulness. Honesty, etc.
- b. What are some of the hurtful habits? Drugs. No exercise. Staying up too late. Not bathing regularly.

3. Examples of bad habits

- a. Religious snake handlers.
- b. Doing dangerous things for a living (i.e. Siegfried and Roy playing with large cats).

4. Some have trouble changing their habits, even if danger is imminent (i.e. Harry Truman and Mt. St. Helens).

B. The story of Daniel in the lions den (Dan. 6).

1. Daniel is a captive in a foreign land (Babylon) and yet he distinguishes himself so much that the king gives thought to setting him over the whole realm (Dan. 6:3).
2. The other wise men are not happy with that idea so they conspire to find fault in Daniel but they can't find anything except that he is faithful to his God (Dan. 6:4-5).
3. They trick the king into passing a law that no one can pray to any other god but the king for thirty days or else you die (Dan. 6:6-9).
4. When Daniel knew that the writing was signed he continued to pray 3 times a day, as his custom was, since he was little Dan. 6:10).

C. Daniel's preparation

1. He prayed 3 times a day as his custom was from a child (Dan. 6:10).
2. He gave thanks to God when things were going wrong (Dan. 6:10; Ps. 34:1; 1 Pet. 4:12-14; Job 1:20-22, 2:9-10; 13:15. Rom. 3:4, Rev. 12:11).

D. What can we learn??

1. It is really important to learn good habits early in life.
2. Prayer is a vital method to receive strength and wisdom from God for the trying times in life.
3. Our attitude towards God makes a difference in receiving the help and insights we need from Him.
4. If we trust God and seek his wisdom, we too (like Daniel) will have a testimony influencing others, not just for a short time, but for eternity (Dan. 12:3; Jn. 4:14).

Extras

Others choose to make risky behavior a way of life. Maybe you have heard of the wildly successful magicians Siegfried and Roy in Las Vegas. They were considered the best magicians in Las Vegas because they worked with large white cats (Lions and tigers). They were called Masters of the impossible and performed their show to sold out audiences in their 1500 seat auditorium for many years until one night something went terribly wrong. 45 minutes into their 7:30 performance they brought a 400 lb white tiger onto the stage named Manicore and the tiger didn't do what it was supposed to do. Roy tapped the tiger about 3 times on the nose, trying to get it to obey, instead it knocked the entertainer off his feet, moved over him and grabbed him by the neck and dragged him off the stage.

One spectator that gathered outside to await word about Roy's condition said, "Although we are not a religious group, **maybe we should pray?**"