

July/August 2025

What To Do With Freedom

The prophet Daniel had worked his way up to place of regard within King Darius' court. He had standing before the king and was in a position that others envied. Darius was convinced by those who wanted to take Daniel down to create a law which forbid anyone, for thirty days, to pray to or worship any god except King Darius. It became a law. Anyone found breaking that law would be thrown into a den of lions.

According to the law of the land, Daniel wasn't free. He wasn't free to pray, call on, or worship the one true and only God. But it would only be for thirty days, so hey, no big deal. He could go without for a month, right? Wrong. It was a big deal to Daniel. To call upon God, give thanks, pray, serve and obey Him was worth everything to Daniel. *"When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open toward Jerusalem. He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God as he had done previously" (Dan. 6:10).* He knew the law forbid him, he knew the cost, but continued living his life as a Christian anyway.

He ended up in the lions den. A scary, frightful, and surely deadly result of operating outside the scope of what is allowed. But our Lord, as you know, shut the mouths of lions and delivered Daniel from the den. King Darius even ends up making a decree that all the people should tremble before the living God whom Daniel serves.

Daniel wasn't free to worship yet he was glad to do so anyway - no matter the cost. We should, therefore, as Independence Day is upon us, ask ourselves what do we do as ones who are free? We don't have any constraints or threats of death as Daniel did and are thankful to be able to worship freely in our country. Do we take full advantage of that? To live as Christians who have the best message in the world? Would we be okay with taking thirty days off? Daniel wasn't. Even at the threat of a den of lions. Which means he's an encouragement to us who are free. We have much to be thankful for and shouldn't squander or take for granted the fact that our Lord Jesus has put us in country where the Gospel can be freely proclaimed and we can gather openly to be sustained by it. A gift squandered or taken for granted is a gift lost.

We are free to sing, proclaim, and teach our children of the mercies of the One who has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light. God bless America so that this will continue to happen here so that freedom in Christ our King would be embraced by all. Daniel wasn't free at the king's decree, but he was faithful. We are free. May we be encouraged to be faithful. God help us and shed His grace on thee.

In Christ,
Pastor Suggitt

LIFE QUOTE

Never apologize for sharing God's Word. Never excuse holding or defending a godly position that clearly states how a life issue stands according to Scripture. Abortion is wrong, as is assisted suicide, and many other life issues happening in our world.

A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

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