

Jan 21, 2018



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks
Baptist Church**
Grand Prairie, Texas

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A Prayer for an Obedient Faith Daniel 9:4-8, 5-19

Aim and Application of the Lesson

The lesson teaches us how to understand the times in which Daniel lived, being aware of the chronological events as they unfolded and how he offered up **A Prayer for an Obedient Faith**. The study's aim is to experience the response and attitude of Daniel as he became aware of God's communication through the Word. The study's application is to lead believers to an understanding of godly faith and an awareness of the importance of a godly attitude as exhibited by Daniel.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

Lesson Introduction and Background

This week's lesson shows Daniel pleading that God would show mercy to Judah. He is basically begging God to save them from calamity, to restore them to their land, and not to forget the promises He made. Why is mercy necessary? When we think about Daniel, we think about a faithful prophet. However, Daniel is not asking simply on his own behalf. When we look at the greater context, we get to the crux of the matter: Israel's disobedience. Israel had strayed far away from God and His law. Sadly, their choices had consequences. And they were not the consequences they had hoped for! They were in dire straits. One of God's first and foremost requirements is obedience. From the beginning, He has asked those who follow Him to listen to and follow His commands. A good parent, He establishes boundaries for His children. There are times when these commands seem strange. After all, He told Noah to build a huge boat when there was no sign of rain in sight (Gen. 6-8). Abraham was called to leave his hometown and set out for an unknown destination (12:1-5). Ananias was told to go speak to a notorious hater of the believers (Acts 9:10-19). It would have been very easy for Noah to say, "God, this is stupid! Why am I doing this?" In equal fashion, Abraham could have said, "God, I have a comfortable life. Why should I uproot myself and just leave? How do I know everything will work out?" What if Ananias had said, "No, God. I will not go. This man is just going to kill me too"? But in each case, obedience became a legacy of faith that changed history. On the other hand, let us not forget the consequences of disobedience. For instance, think about what happened when Sarah disobeyed. She used Hagar to try to force God's promise (Gen. 16). When God's promised child finally appeared, there was enmity between the two boys. So what do we do when God's plan does not make sense? We obey, with the understanding that His plan for our lives is always for good (Jer. 29:11). We view things dimly and imperfectly now (1 Cor. 13:12), unlike God's perfect, unmarred view. There will be times when obedience is not easy, and it may even seem foolish. During those times, we need to remind ourselves that God knows best. Following God's plan looks different for every person. Because God created us unique, what He has planned for one person may not be what He plans for another. That is where faith comes into play. He has created each of us with a unique purpose, and we cannot discover it primarily through others. It is unveiled only as we obey what God has for us, in both big and small things, if we love Him, we will choose to practice it (John 14:15). What does obedience look like for you at this time? Does it look strange, even foolish? Maybe He is asking you to be faithful to what you are already doing, or maybe He wants you to renounce something harmful in your life. Do you struggle with what He is calling you to? If you find yourself uncertain in this area, ask God to strengthen you.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

When we cannot see God's hand at work, we can still trust His heart

COMMENT FOR THE WEEK:

God's timing is rarely our own, but it is always worth waiting for

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:

Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us

(Eph 3:20 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", Nov 6, 2017)

Series: Faith in Action

UNIT: A Living Faith in God

NEXT WEEK

A Strong Faith
(Dan 10:10-19)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Prayer Starts with Confession (Dan 9:4-7)

Acknowledge God's faithfulness (4)

God is faithful because God is eternally faithful regardless (Ps 146:6).

God is faithful because His faithfulness is known as great (Lam 3:23)

God is faithful because all God's actions are done in faithfulness (Ps 33:4)

God is faithful because God's faithfulness endures forever (Ps 119:90)

Acknowledge God's mercy (4)

God is merciful because His mercy makes Christians a people of God (1 Peter 2:10)

God is merciful because His mercy is eternal (Ps 25:6)

God is merciful because He delights in showing it (Mic 7:18)

God is merciful because we can find it when we approach His throne (Heb 4:16)

Confession of rebellion (5)

Confession of rebellion because of not listening to God (Isa 30:9)

Confession of rebellion because to avoid rebellion is to live by faith (Heb 10:38)

Confession of rebellion of the deception of others (Titus 1:10)

Confession of rebellion to receive God forgiveness (Lam 3:41-42)

Confession of disobedience (6)

Confession of disobedience because disobedience stores up God's wrath (Rom 2:5)

Confession of disobedience so that God can lead us in the way of everlasting life (Ps 139:23-24)

Confession of disobedience because disobedience is in conflict the Holy Spirit (Gal 5:16-17)

Confession of disobedience to receive God's mercy (Rom 11:32)

Confession of unfaithfulness (7)

Confession of unfaithfulness because God destroys the unfaithful (Ps 73:27)

Confession of unfaithfulness because the way of those who are unfaithful is hard (Prov 13:15)

Confession of unfaithfulness because God frustrates the words of the unfaithful (Prov 22:12)

Confession of unfaithfulness because God considers the unfaithful as worthless servants (Matt 25:24-30)

Prayer for God's Forgiveness (Dan 9:8-14)

Forgiveness of sinful rebellion (8-9)

Rebellion that comes from being evil (Prov 17:11)

Rebellion that comes from rejecting God's Word (1 Sam 15:23)

Rebellion that comes from despising God's counsel (Ps 107:10-12)

Rebellion that comes from being disloyal to God (Ps 78:8)

Rebellion that leads to destruction (Prov 24:21-22)

Forgiveness of disobedience (10-11)

Disobedience that comes from the influence of Satan (Eph 2:1-3)

Disobedience of being deceptive (Eph 5:6)

Disobedience through actions that display the denial of God (Titus 1:15-16)

Disobedience that will receive just punishment (Heb 2:2)

Forgiveness versus justice (12-14)

God forgives even though our sins require death (Ps 103:10)

Only through God's mercy are we forgiven (Neh 9:31)

God's forgiveness does not keep a record of our sins (Ps 130:3)

Only through God's compassion are we not consumed (Lam 3:22)

Prayer Seeking God's Mercy (Dan 9:15-19)

Mercy through God's deliverance (15-16)

Deliverance from deadly peril (2 Cor 1:10)

Deliverance from troubles (Ps 34:19)

Deliverance from temptations (1 Cor 10:13)

Deliverance from evil attacks (2 Tim 4:18)

Mercy through God's attentiveness (17-19)

Attentive because of His covenant promises (Gen 26:4-5)

Attentive because of compassionate actions and prayer (Isa 58:6-11)

Attentive because of repentant people (2 Chron 7:14-15)

Attentive because of prayer from the righteous offered in faith (James 5:15-18)