

Living out loud - part 3

Opening text: Daniel 6:1-10

Recap – Over the past 2 weeks, I have been sharing about ‘upping the volume’ in your spiritual life. I have been saying that the enemy would love to put a lid on your prayers and the expression of your worship. The enemy wants to tone down your passion and bring containment to your relationship with God.

The point of these 3 messages has been to encourage all of us to break out of any restrictions (spiritual or man-made), and live a life out loud for God, a life of bold prayers and passionate worship.

1. The enemy tries to silence worship

When I think of someone in the scriptures whom the enemy tried to silence, I think of Daniel. Daniel was a worshiper of God and consecrated to Him. However, in Daniel 6 we see how a decree was issued from king Darius that no one was to direct any petition to God for 30 days, except to the king. The penalty for transgressing this law was to be thrown in a pit and be eaten by lions.

I am amazed at what Daniel did next: he went home, walked up to the highest room in his house (the upper room) and from there he prayed and gave thanks to God “*as was his custom since early days*”.

At a time when the enemy tried to silence his worship, I admire 3 things about Daniel that show the excellent spirit he had: his consistency, his courage and his confidence.

a) Consistency

V.10b “*He prayed and gave thanks to God as was his custom since early days*”.

A *custom* is a repeated behaviour, something you usually do - consistently.

He did what he had always done. He prayed when he was a nobody in the *early days* and he prayed when he became important. Power had not corrupted him, and adversity was not going to stop him either. He prayed when it was safe to pray and now prayed and gave thanks regardless of the possibility of facing the death penalty.

His ‘*custom since early days*’ was to pray and worship 3 times a day. He had a lifestyle of constant communication with God. Consistency is such a powerful thing.

b) Courage

And He did it with his window open on the top floor of the house. What courage, what boldness. He opened the window – knowing he would be seen, knowing he would be heard! 3 times a day. He couldn’t have made his relationship with God more public.

c) Confidence

What faith he had! He trusted God in the face of lions and his faith sustained him.

V.23b says ... “*So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no injury whatever was found on him, because he believed in his God”.*

Hebrews 11:33 *who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions*

The enemy would love to suppress worship, prayer – in fact, anything that would make you an authentic, powerful, passionate follower of Jesus.

The story of Daniel is one of triumph though. His worship could not be stopped, his mouth could not be shut. It was the lion’s mouths that were shut!

God is looking for people of a similar spirit, an excellent spirit: those who are not ashamed of Him, those willing to stand courageous to go against the flow and declare the praises of our God! Those consistent in their relationship with God and for whom worship is a lifestyle.

2. If the enemy can’t silence your worship, he will try to ‘divert’ it

The enemy hates your relationship with God. He hates your worship. He will try to silence and suppress it in all kinds of ways. However, if he can’t silence you, he will try to divert your worship away from God, he will try to direct it somewhere else:

- a) The decree of Darius stated that no prayer should be directed to any god or man except to the king.
- b) In chapter **3** of Daniel we also read about an image that was set up to direct people’s worship away from God. (**Daniel 3: 15-19**).
- c) The battle for who gets the worship is a real one. The devil even tried to divert the very worship of Jesus. He told Him, I will give you all these kingdoms if you worship me. Jesus replied, “You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve” (**Luke 4:5-8**)

We have to watch out for those things that the enemy will bring to divert our worship. Never become a money worshipper or a career worshipper or a power worshipper or any kind of worshipper who is not a worshipper of God.

Hebrews 11:6b says that God is a rewarder of those who diligently, consistently seek Him:

- Daniel prospered – **Daniel 6:28**
So, this Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.
- The 3 friends were promoted – **Daniel 3:30**

Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego in the province of Babylon.

3. The power of worship

When I think of people with an excellent spirit who followed Jesus in an uncompromising, passionate way, I also think of Paul. He said, “*I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ*”. Simply because of his radical affection for Jesus and the desire to see people come to Christ he was put in prison many times. However, no amount of beatings, shackles or prisons could silence His worship of God.

Acts 16:23-34 – That is the power of worshipping God!

Pauls said in verse 37: “*now do they put us out secretly?*” – The enemy doesn’t mind secret Christians. Silent, secret Christians are no threat to him.

Paul was not a secret Christian. He was a ‘public’ Christian, he worshiped with an open window. He didn’t accept the off-the-court settlement they offered. He was uncompromising, and he wanted to go as public as possible about Jesus.

Conclusion

As we saw today, remember that

- The enemy will try to silence your worship.
- If he can’t silence you, he will try to get you to worship something else.
- However, have an excellent spirit: be consistent, courageous and confident. Be uncompromising like Paul. Go public with your relationship with God. Don’t be a secret follower, don’t tone down the level of your passion. Up the volume of your spiritual life. Be loud and clear about Jesus!

The Lord will protect and promote you and you will have a great testimony before Him.