

2011 Week Twenty-Four
Midlands Churches of Christ, Birmingham, UK
Women's Ministry
Offerings for Quiet Time Study

1. NO WOUND WAS FOUND ON HIM, BECAUSE HE HAD TRUSTED IN HIS GOD
DANIEL CHAPTER 6; MATTHEW 4:3,6; MARK 11:22-25

- Write down every detail I can find referring to the Medo-Persian administrators and satraps who rise up as enemies against Daniel in chapter 6. (*What are they like? What do they do? What do they say? What effect do they have?*)¹
- How secure am I feeling today in my personal relationship with God? Are my thoughts accusing me (like Satan in Matthew 4 and Daniel's enemies in Dan 6), making me feel that I'm not _____ enough (*fill in the blank: good, faithful, righteous, strong, obedient, pure, open, etc.*) to really be fully accepted as a daughter of God? If I'm feeling accused and attacked, why am I feeling this way? What's the root?
- Is there anything bothering me that I feel like cannot be changed? Name this, and make plans (tomorrow, if I don't have enough time today) to look up some scriptures that teach the contrary -- like **Mark 11:22-25**. Pray specifically about this concern, asking God for wisdom to know in what way I can act with faith to overcome my spiritual enemies, as the king in Daniel 6 did after witnessing God's miracle in rescuing Daniel.
- If I'm feeling like the mountain in my way is not moving, it is possible I may be looking at the wrong mountain?²

¹ *The enemies attack a person who is trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent. They search for false accusations against a person who is pleasing to God. They decide to attack him on the basis of his relationship with God. Their influence causes the government to pass a law that restricts Daniel's freedom to worship God. The enemies work as a group. They go to Daniel's home, observe his prayer to God in private, then betray him, slandering him to the king. They hold up the human law (the "royal decree," made by the king in response to the enemies' suggestion) as the standard, which citizens must obey. When the king is greatly distressed, regretting his evil edict, wanting in his heart to rescue Daniel, the enemies sense this somehow, come as a group once again to the king, pressure him, and lie, saying that the king's word is law and can never be changed (why couldn't the king merely issue another law, revoking the earlier one?). They deceive and trap the highest authority in the land by insisting that he is powerless to change what he has already done. The king becomes a miserable puppet of the enemies, in anguish, unable to eat or sleep. When God protects Daniel miraculously in the lion's den and Daniel emerges unharmed the next morning because he trusts in God, the king finds the courage to throw the evil advisors into the lion's den (he has the power to do this all along but clearly didn't know it, believe it, or feel it), and the enemies and their families are destroyed. **Yeah!***

² *I feel like I'm still learning that God ALWAYS moves the mountain. When I don't feel like he does, I think it's because I'm refusing to take full responsibility for the things that God is expecting me to change, things that are within my control, but I may not think they are -- just like the king's mistake in Daniel 6. I think God has an order sometimes to things that need to change. Changes in my heart are usually the mountains I ignore, looking at obstacles outside my control first. This can make me feel helpless and like God is far away and indifferent. Lord, increase my humility, my self-awareness, my obedience to you. Increase my faith that you are Lord of every mountain, the victor over every obstacle, including even death itself! Help me see that you ALWAYS move mountains. Help me pray consistently and faithfully for the mountains that need to move.*

