

## HOW TO COPE WITH LIONS

A Sermon for the Sunday before Thanksgiving

By Dr. David R. Mains

**Text:** Philippians 4:6, Daniel 6:10

**Subject:** Anxious circumstances

**Desired Response:** Pray with thanksgiving

**How To:** Copy the example of faith heroes

**How Long:** 2-week experiment (November 18 – December 2)

**Sermon in a Sentence:** When in anxious circumstances, copy what faith heroes have done, and pray with thanksgiving.

**Worship Theme:** God is our deliverer

### **Subject:**

As a political figure, he stood head and shoulders above his contemporaries. In fact, he distinguished himself to such a degree that the monarch initiated plans to make him administrator over his entire kingdom.

Hearing of what was about to take place, his jealous colleagues looked for a way to pull the imperial rug out from under his feet. Since they couldn't find anything under his watch bordering on corruption, or incompetence, they conspired to do him in through trickery.

Playing to the king's ego, they got him to sign an irrevocable order that (quote) "*Anyone who prays to any god or man during the next thirty days, except to you, O king, shall be thrown into the lions' den.*" And naïve King Darius, not realizing that his friend Daniel was being set up, foolishly put the decree in writing.

Lions are fearsome animals. They're built more for strength than for speed. A male usually weighs between 350 and 400 pounds, and is about nine feet from nose to tail. Male lions are the only cats with manes. This collar of long thick hair gives it a regal appearance and protects it during fights. The cat's big heavy paws are armed with curved claws that hook and hold down its prey.

Lions have 30 teeth. The four large ones grip its prey and tear the meat. Four cheek teeth cut through tough skin. They have no teeth for chewing like humans do. Lions swallow their food in chunks. A male can eat up to 75 pounds of meat in a single meal.

Oh yes, a lion will often hunt at night. That's because its gold-colored eyes can see in the dark. It also has an excellent sense of both smell and hearing. So to be thrown into a den of lions (plural) at night is a fearsome thing.

But I'm getting ahead of my story. Let me read from Scripture. Daniel 6, verse 10: