

WAYMAKER

When It's Time To Stand

Pastor Doug Heisel - April 29, 2018

I Corinthians 10:13 ...God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also **provide a way out...**

Daniel 3:1-30 — King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, ninety feet tall and nine feet wide, and set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon...

"Nations and peoples of every language, this is what you are commanded to do: As soon as you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music, you must fall down and worship the image of gold ... Whoever does not fall down and worship will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace."

...For this reason certain Chaldeans came forward and brought charges against the Jews. "... there are some Jews whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon—Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego—who pay no attention to you, Your Majesty. They neither serve your gods nor worship the image of gold you have set up."

Furious with rage, Nebuchadnezzar summoned Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. So these men were brought before the king, and Nebuchadnezzar said to them, "Is it true, that you do not serve my gods or worship the image of gold I have set up?

Now when you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music, if you are ready to fall down and worship the image I made, very good. But if you do not worship it, you will be thrown immediately into a blazing furnace. **Then what god will be able to rescue you from my hand?"**

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, "King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. **If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty's hand. But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."**

Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and his attitude toward them changed. He ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual and commanded some of the strongest soldiers in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace...

Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, "Weren't there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?" They replied, "Certainly, Your Majesty." He said, "Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods."

Nebuchadnezzar then approached the opening of the blazing furnace and shouted, "Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!" So Shadrach,

Meshach and Abednego came out of the fire, and the satraps, prefects, governors and royal advisers crowded around them. They saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies, nor was a hair of their heads singed; their robes were not scorched, and there was no smell of fire on them.

Then Nebuchadnezzar said, "Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants! They trusted in him and defied the king's command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God.

Therefore I decree that the people of any nation or language who say anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego be cut into pieces and their houses be turned into piles of rubble, for no other god can save in this way." Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the province of Babylon.

Three essential areas to apply this ...

1) **Stand on the authority of GOD'S WORD.**

2) **Stand with the PEOPLE OF GOD.**

3) **Stand for the NEEDY and OPPRESSED.**

Life Group Discussion & Questions

BREAKING THE ICE: What environment or circumstance was, or is, the hardest to uphold Biblical values? Explain.

DIGGING IN: Babylon was not only a real historical city, it also represents a system that is contrary to the ways of God. The book of Daniel (along with other Biblical books) takes place in Babylon. It illustrates how the people of God are to live when their world doesn't support their faith or values. The starting point is to learn to lead with **wisdom and tact**. But there will be times when that option is not available. We will be given the choice to either **cave in** (to the ways of culture or peer pressure) or **take a stand** (and trust and follow God). Such was the case in Daniel chapter 3. Begin by reading the chapter.

1. For these three young men, this was a life and death choice. Rarely are we put into that extreme position, but we will be tempted to compromise or cave in. What are some examples today where Christians are pressured to “go with the flow?”
2. The very first recorded human temptation (in Genesis 3:1) was to question the word of God. That is a tactic the Devil has never stopped using. Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17. What does this passage teach us? How are you growing in your commitment to God’s Word? How can this happen better together?
3. Another place to take a stand is to **stand for the needy and oppressed**. Our church is committed to that — locally, regionally and globally. Take time to pray for our 2018 Kingdom Builder Projects (see our booklet or go online). Keep leaning into how you (and your life group) can **Multiply Compassion**.

NOTE: We leverage technology to reach more people for Jesus, and (on most Sundays) to experience the same Biblical Teaching, regardless of the campus you attend. However, if you are looking for a service that consistently has “live teaching,” Alamo 12:15pm is that service. Other morning services alternate simulcast teaching — generally every other week. 5pm, in Alamo, is also “live” most Sundays.