

MIYAGI week 6 - TRUSTING IN GOD - The CRUCIBLE

#sermons #miyagi

INTRODUCTION

Things are not always as they seem, Daniel had to TRUST that Mr Miyagi knew better than he did.

He made him wash and wax his cars, wax on wax off

He made him sand his floors, paint his fence, paint his house side to side. Daniel-san had reached his limit.

Show me sand the floor.

Q. Do you think that it's easier to OBEY GOD or to TRUST GOD?

Obedying God to me seems easier than trusting Him.

God has played out His moral law for His kids to follow. The boundaries are clear and fixed, immovable, eternal.

In most cases we find His law rational and reasonable. Don't steal, don't lie, don't commit adultery, don't covet.

But TRUSTING HIM IS ANOTHER MATTER.

The circumstances under which we MUST TRUST GOD are completely IRRATIONAL and UNREASONABLE.

There are NO BOUNDARIES to trusting God, we don't know the EXTENT/sickness, persecution DURATION/ 2 weeks, 2 months, 2 years FREQUENCY/ once a week, once a month, once a year to which we will be called to TRUST HIM. It's UNKNOWN territory, and we hate UNKNOWN.

TRANSITION

When we FAIL to OBEY God, we reject His AUTHORITY and DISRESPECT His Holiness.

When we FAIL to TRUST GOD, we IGNORE His SOVEREIGNTY and doubt His LOVE.

Trusting God can seem like playing CHUTES AND LADDERS and all the squares in front of us are blacked out.

We roll the dice, it's a 5. Only 2 of the spaces in front of us are visible.

Welcome to what I call the CRUCIBLE OF FAITH. TRUST and OBEY cause there is NO OTHER WAY.

PASSAGE - Turn to Daniel 3v8-28

Daniel 3:8-30

The Fiery Furnace

8Therefore at that time certain Chaldeans came forward and maliciously accused the Jews.

9They declared[b] to King Nebuchadnezzar, "O king, live forever! **10**You, O king, have made a decree, that every man who hears the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, shall fall down and worship the golden image. **11**And whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast into a burning fiery furnace.

12There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These men, O king, pay no attention to you; they do not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."

13Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought. So they brought these men before the king. **14**Nebuchadnezzar answered and said to them, "Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the golden image that I have set up? **15**Now if you are ready when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, to fall down and worship the image that I have made, well and good.[c] But if you do not worship, you shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace. **And who is the god who will deliver you out of my hands?"** [He genuinely didn't know God.]

Here is the first STUMBLING BLOCK to TRUSTING GOD. In order to TRULY TRUST HIM YOU NEED TO TRUELY KNOW HIM.

Psalms 9v10

And those who **know your name** put their trust in you, for you, O Lord, have not forsaken those who seek you.

Psalms 9v10 [Passion Translation]

May everyone who **knows your mercy keep putting their trust in you,** for they can count on you for help no matter what. O Lord, you will never, no never, neglect those who come to you.

Daniel 11v32

He shall seduce with flattery those who violate the covenant, but the people who know their God shall stand firm and take action.

16Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have **no need to answer you in this matter.** [THEY KNEW THEIR GOD] **17**If this be so, our God whom we serve **is able** to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and **he will deliver us** out of your hand, O king.[d] **18**But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."

When you KNOW YOUR GOD, YOU KNOW HIS CHARACTER. WHEN YOU KNOW HIS CHARACTER IT IS EASIER TO TRUST & OBEY.

When you KNOW YOUR GOD, you will KNOW THREE THINGS.

1. HE IS SOVEREIGN.

God is in CONTROL.

He does and doesn't as HE PLEASES.

If there is a "single event" in the universe outside of God's control then we CANNOT/ SHOULD NOT trust Him. His LOVE may be INFINITE but if His power is limited, and his plans ruined, then HOW CAN WE TRUST HIM?

INTERNET SYMPTOMS/BED HUGS/BUSH FIRES. Dad is not sovereign.

Lamentations 3v37

Who has spoken and it came to pass, unless the Lord has commanded it? [problem with modern church music, no PAIN] see psalms . Here's the deal we may not like or agree with what He does or doesn't!

2. HE IS WISE

Romans 11v33

Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!

Better than a Shyamalan Twist

19Then Nebuchadnezzar was filled with fury, and the expression of his face was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. He ordered the furnace heated seven times more than it was usually heated. **20**And he ordered some of the mighty men of his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace.

21 Then these men were bound in their cloaks, their tunics, [e] their hats, and their other garments, and they were thrown into the burning fiery furnace. **22** Because the king's order was urgent and the furnace overheated, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. **23** And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell bound into the burning fiery furnace.

24 Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up in haste. He declared to his counselors, "Did we not cast three men bound into the fire?" They answered and said to the king, "True, O king." **25** He answered and said, "But I see four men unbound, walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods."

26 Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the door of the burning fiery furnace; he declared, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out, and come here!" Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out from the fire. **27** And the satraps, the prefects, the governors, and the king's counselors gathered together and saw that the fire had not had any power over the bodies of those men. The hair of their heads was not singed, their cloaks were not harmed, and no smell of fire had come upon them.

3. HE IS LOVE

John 3v16-18

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes [piece-tevo/ pistis- TRUST, faith,] in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

The ONLY WAY TO TRUST AND OBEY IS TO KNOW HIM. The only way to KNOW HIM is to TRUST & OBEY HIM.

Soren Kierkegaard said:

"Life can be understood backwards, but it must be lived forwards."

Kierkegaard argued that the "**passionate pagan**" who prayed to a false idol was living better than the Christian who was worshiping out of mere habit.

Jeremiah 17v7

"Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord.

28 Nebuchadnezzar answered and said, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and **delivered his servants[slaves], who trusted in him, and set aside the king's command, and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God.**

GUIDING LIGHT - Foy Vance

Well the road is wide
And waters run on either side
And my shadow went with fading light
Stretching out towards the night

'Cause the sun is low
And I yet have still so far to go
My lonely heart is beating so
Tired of the wonder

There's a sign ahead
Though I think it's the same one again
But I'm thinking 'bout my only friend
And so I find my way home

Well the air is cold
And yonder lies my sleeping soul
By the branches broke like bones
This weakened tree no longer holds

The night is still
And I have not yet lost my will
Oh and I will keep on moving 'till
'Till I find my way home