

Series: Daniel: Life In Exile

Text: Daniel 3:1-30

Main Idea: We refuse to conform to the world because we know our God rescues.

Title/Hook: Trial By Fire

Date: 1/22/23

Purpose: To encourage Christians to remain faithful to God, even in the face of trials and opposition, because Jesus has been faithful for us, is with us, and has saved us from sin and death.

FCF/COR: How will God's people live when they are being pressed to bow to other gods, threatened for their faith and life, and everyone else seems to be choosing differently?

Christ Trajectory: Matthew 4:8-10, 2 Cor. 5:21 - Israel, whom God called His Son, had betrayed God and bowed to other gods, but Jesus, God's one and only Son, came to this earth and lived a perfect life, He never bowed to another god, never served or worshipped any god except the Father, and He obeyed God the Father in everything, even to the point of going to the cross to die in our place, for our sins, so we could be forgiven and made right with God. Why is this all good news?

Structure: Inductive

Main Idea:

Subject (What is the passage about?): What happens when Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refuse to worship Nebuchadnezzar's gods at the risk of death?

Complement (What does the passage say about the subject?): God is with them and delivers them.

Exegetical Main Idea: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego risk their lives by refusing to worship Nebuchadnezzar's gods, but God is with them and delivers them.

Theological Main Idea: As God's people refuse to conform to the world around them they can be assured that God is with them and will deliver them.

Homiletical Main Idea: We refuse to conform to the world because we know our God rescues.

Outline:

Text: Daniel 3:1-30

1. Nebuchadnezzar tries to make a name for himself by setting up a golden image (vv. 1-7)

Isaiah 44:6 – Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: I am the first and I am the last, besides me there is no god.

Genesis 11:1-4 - ¹Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. ²And as people migrated from the east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. ³And they said to one another, “Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly.” And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar. ⁴Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth.”

2. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego are accused of defiance and refuse to be compliant (vv. 8-18)

Exodus 20:1-6 - ¹And God spoke all these words, saying,
²“I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.
³“You shall have no other gods before me.
⁴“You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me,

⁶but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

3. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego are delivered by God and Nebuchadnezzar changes his tune (vv. 19-30)

Quote – Iain Duguid – “In either case, however, it is a physical demonstration of God’s presence with believers in their distress.”

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Matthew 4:8-10 - ⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹ And he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.”

¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written,

“ ‘You shall worship the Lord your God
and him only shall you serve.’ ”

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

2 Corinthians 5:21 - ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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Matthew 10:28-33 - ²⁸ And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰ But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹ Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

³² So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, ³³ but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.

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