

Backbone  
Week 3

**Daniel 2:10-13** The astrologers answered the king, “There is no one on earth who can do what the king asks! No king, however great and mighty, has ever asked such a thing of any magician or enchanter or astrologer. <sup>11</sup> What the king asks is too difficult. No one can reveal it to the king except the gods, and they do not live among humans.” <sup>12</sup> This made the king so angry and furious that he ordered the execution of all the wise men of Babylon. <sup>13</sup> So the decree was issued to put the wise men to death, and men were sent to look for Daniel and his friends to put them to death.

**You want to be a Daniel. You want to have the wisdom Daniel had to make confident decisions, then you got to do what Daniel did. What did Daniel do when he faced a difficult decision?**

- Daniel prayed for wisdom from God
- Daniel praised God in advance for what he believed God would do

**Daniel didn't take the opportunity to elevate himself before the King, but saw the opportunity to elevate God before the king.**

**Daniel 2:27-28** Daniel replied, “No wise man, enchanter, magician or diviner can explain to the king the mystery he has asked about, <sup>28</sup> but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries. He has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in days to come.

**Daniel 2:47** The king said to Daniel, “Surely your God is the God of gods and the Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries, for you were able to reveal this mystery.”

**Daniel 2:48-49** Then the king placed Daniel in a high position and lavished many gifts on him. He made him ruler over the entire province of Babylon and placed him in charge of all its wise men. <sup>49</sup> Moreover, at Daniel's request the king appointed Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego administrators over the province of Babylon, while Daniel himself remained at the royal court.

- God honors people who faithfully serve him.

**Nebuchadnezzar defied the social norm, and he elevated a Christian to a place of authority because of the character he exhibited. That's Not Normal.**

**Daniel's character wasn't just affecting the king, but it was also affecting his friends too.**

**Daniel 3:13-15** Furious with rage, Nebuchadnezzar summoned Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. So these men were brought before the king, <sup>14</sup> and Nebuchadnezzar said to them, “Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the

image of gold I have set up? <sup>15</sup> 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?" They respected the king and his authority until it put them in a situation to go against their faith, and their God. That's where they drew the line and said, "Nope I won't back down."

**Daniel's life and faith is what inspired his friends to take their stand in the face of death and believe that God can.**

Daniel 3:16-18 Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, "King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. <sup>17</sup> If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us<sup>[G]</sup> from Your Majesty's hand. <sup>18</sup> 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."

**WOW! They chose to trust their destiny in the hands of God instead of sacrificing their character and saving themselves.**

**They chose to honor God instead of sacrificing their character to make more money  
They chose to honor God instead of sacrificing their character to gain a better position  
They chose to honor God instead of sacrificing their character to save a relationship**

Daniel 3:24-25 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." <sup>25</sup> 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."

**Jesus is always with us when we take a stand for our faith.**

**How are you influencing those around you?**

**Dare to be a Daniel?**