



NO LIMITS
WITH PASTOR DELMAN

— NOW —
spend
— THAT —

S E R M O N G U I D E

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Now Spend THAT

Daniel 3:10-18

INTRODUCTION

Modern culture often presents us with a constant stream of music and messages that shape our values, desires, and identities. A recent song, "Spend Dat" by rapper Yung Miami, sparked controversy for glorifying a lifestyle of scamming and theft. While it is easy to debate the song itself, this situation highlights a timeless spiritual tactic of the enemy: to divide and conquer by having oppressed people fight amongst themselves instead of uniting against the true systems of injustice.

This is the same test that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego faced in ancient Babylon. At the height of their success, they were confronted with a royal decree. When the king's music played, they had to bow to a golden image or face a fiery furnace. Their story forces us to ask a critical question: when the world's music plays, a sound demanding our conformity and worship, will we bow down, or will we stand firm in who God has called us to be?

KEY POINTS

1. Be Rooted In Your Culture

Before the three Hebrew boys refused to bow to the statue in Daniel 3, they first refused to be defiled by the king's food in Daniel 1. Their ability to withstand the external pressure of the king's music came from an internal culture they had already cultivated. They had a set of morals, values, and a spiritual heritage rooted in the God they served. This inner song was louder and more powerful than the king's orchestra. For us, this means our identity in Christ must be our true culture. When we are deeply rooted in the values of the Kingdom, the temptations and pressures of the world become mere background noise. Babylon could change their names and their address, but it could not change their spiritual allegiance.

2. Distinguish The Players From The Powers

In the story, the court musicians who played the music were not the problem; they were simply doing what the throne required. The real issue was the king, the power structure that programmed the music and created the oppressive system. The Hebrew boys did not condemn the players; they defied the power. In our world, we must learn to do the same. It is easy to vilify an artist for a song, but we are called to a deeper social justice analysis. We must critique the systems of greed, poverty, and desperation that produce such messages. The true "scammers" are often not the people in the hood but the powerful in corporate suites and political offices who profit from injustice. Our mission is not to condemn the players but to challenge the powers.

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3. Stand Firm, Even "If Not"

The most powerful moment of the story comes when the Hebrew boys declare their faith. They believed God was able to deliver them, but their commitment was not dependent on that outcome. They famously said, "But even if he does not, we want you to know... we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold." This "but if not" faith is the ultimate act of spiritual resistance. It declares that our trust in God is not transactional. We will not bow, whether healing comes or not. We will not bow, whether the breakthrough happens or not. Our praise is not conditioned on our circumstances because our identity is already secured in God.

This passage calls us to a radical life of non-conformity. It is a call to live with a "but if not" faith in a world that demands we bow to its idols of materialism, power, and fleeting cultural trends. As followers of Christ, our lives should be a witness against the oppressive systems of our day. We are called to advocate for the marginalized, challenge corporate greed, and question political actions that go against the justice and mercy of God's Kingdom.

Living this way requires us to be deeply rooted in our identity in Christ. We must cultivate an inner life of prayer, Scripture, and worship that gives us a "song within us" to withstand the "song outside of us." This is how we break the cycle. The system that produced us does not have to program us. Let us stand firm, knowing that the God we serve is with us, and even if we are thrown into the fire, we are not alone. Our allegiance is to God's glory, not our own comfort, and we will not bow.

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. What are the "songs" or cultural pressures in your life that demand you bow down and conform? What practical steps can you take to cultivate a stronger inner "culture" rooted in Christ to resist them?
2. The sermon challenges us to distinguish between the "music players" and the "music powers." In what areas of our society do you see people blaming individuals for problems that are actually caused by unjust systems? How can you and your community begin to address those root systems?
3. The Hebrew boys had a "but if not" faith. What would it look like for you to live with that level of trust and commitment in your career, family, or personal struggles? What fear or desire for a specific outcome do you need to surrender to God today?
