

## The Story: Chapter 18

### Daniel in Exile

Pastor Kevin Donoho

August 13, 2023

#### **DURING THE STORY SERIES, REMIX CLASS SESSIONS WILL BE DIVIDED INTO TWO SEGMENTS:**

- 1) THE STORY STUDY GUIDE QUESTIONS CHOSEN BY THE LEADER.**
- 2) THE FOLLOWING REMIX QUESTIONS:**

#### **Opening Discussion**

- What thoughts, feelings, or impressions do you have about the sermon this week?

#### **Thought #1: The Image of Gold**

In Daniel Chapter 3, King Nebuchadnezzar had built a giant image of gold: 9 stories tall by 9 stories wide. Then, when a specific sound played, ALL were to bow down and worship this image. And he doesn't stop there. Anyone who does NOT bow down will be immediately thrown into a blazing furnace.

The choice was clear: compromise your worship or die in the blazing furnace.

While there may not be a massive gold image and the consequence may not be a blazing furnace, we can find ourselves in a similar place.

When you hear the phrase, "In it, not of it" what comes to mind for you? Jesus set a clear example for us that we are not to pull out of the world, but rather for us to willingly step into it. How does this idea challenge you? What obstacles do you face when you think about staying on

mission IN the world, but not succumbing to it's pressures to worship other things?

Sometimes the "image of gold" is something we have created ourselves. That "thing" that compromises our worship didn't come from someone else, but rather from us.

Are there things you have allowed to compromise your worship? Relationships, pursuits, desires that stand as a gold image in your life. Consider sharing these with your group and inviting them into accountability over it.

#### **Thought #2: Standing out in the Crowd**

Read Daniel 3:8-12

*"But some of the astrologers went to the king and informed on the Jews. They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, "Long live the king! You issued a decree requiring all the people to bow down and worship the gold statue when they hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipes, and other musical instruments. That decree also states that those who refuse to obey must be thrown into a blazing furnace.*

*But there are some Jews—Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego—whom you have put in charge of the province of Babylon. They pay no attention to you, Your Majesty. They refuse to serve your gods and do not worship the gold statue you have set up."*

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were distinct in their worship. While others bowed down, they chose to stand up. Whether the consequence is death, standing out in a crowd is not an easy thing to do. It is hard to stand alone.

Recall a time when you stood alone for something that you felt convicted over. How did it feel in the moment to stand alone? How did it feel after you made the choice to stand up for what you believed?

These three young men did not have a movement in mind when they made their choice. Simply, they were choosing obedience. As a result of your obedience, either past or present, where have you seen God move? Share this with your group and be encouraged.

**Thought #3: Even if...**

Read Daniel 3:17-18

*“If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God whom we serve is able to save us. He will rescue us from your power, Your Majesty. But even if he doesn’t, we want to make it clear to you, Your Majesty, that we will never serve your gods or worship the gold statue you have set up.”*

Even if he doesn’t...

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were confident in the power of God. That He was able to do the miraculous and save them from the fiery furnace. There was no doubt in their mind that He alone was capable of being their rescuer.

But the next line says so much. “Even if He doesn’t” tells us that their obedience, their faithfulness, their confidence in God was not anchored in their rescue, but in who He is.

Consider the phrase “Even if He doesn’t...” in relation to your own life. Are there things, circumstances, or people in your life that you are faithfully surrendering to God? Things from which you’re believing God will rescue you? What does it mean “even

if”? Share with your group how this thought challenges you.

Read Romans 12:1-2

*“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God — this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will.”*

What does it mean to you to offer your body as a living sacrifice? Thinking about Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, how does this become an act of worship for you? When you think about choosing to not conform to the patterns of this world, what does that look like in your daily life? How does this help you to test and approve God’s good and perfect will for you?

Questions for Pastor Todd Keller or Julie Burch regarding your REMIX group?

- Email: Todd [tkeller@collegechurch.com](mailto:tkeller@collegechurch.com)  
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\*\*\*Remember to record your attendance for the week. Thank you.

**How can we pray for each other this week?**

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