

Things must change

¹⁷ If the God we serve exists, then he can rescue us from the furnace of blazing fire, and he can^[a] rescue us from the power of you, the king. ¹⁸ But even if he does not rescue us,^[b] we want you as king to know that we will not serve your gods or worship the gold statue you set up.” **Daniel 3:17-18 CSB**

Intro:

- We live in a time
- Where things must change
- Change is inevitable
- We don't wear the same clothes we used to wear
- We don't have the same technology we used to have
- Everything is evolving
- What used to work back then doesn't work anymore
- Our school system has even advanced since 10 years ago
- We are not even the same person we were five years ago
- With so much change
- Happening all around us
- How do we stand and live for Christ
- We have influencers who tell us one thing
- Eloquent speakers who tell us another thing
- It feels like you get an answer for one thing one day
- Then suddenly that answer was already too old
- We have culture telling us what we must be
- People telling us how we should dress to fit in
- If we aren't doing what everybody is doing
- Then we are the outcast

- In the book of Daniel
- there are these three people that I want to talk to you about today
- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego
- They weren't just common people
- They were intelligent
- Well-educated
- More than likely part of the royal family
- They were exiled from Israel to Babylonia
- Roughly around 605 BC
- They were under the chief eunuch
- Meaning they were close to the palace
- Now Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego
- Were brought to Babylonia
- A place full of the latest technology, culture, etc.
- Now you and I know them as
- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego
- but that wasn't their real name
- That was their Babylonian name
- Their real names were Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah
- Even from the very beginning, before going through the furnace
- The Babylonian king
- change their name
- Hananiah's name means Yahweh has been gracious
- Mishael's name means who is what God is
- Azariah's name means Yahweh has helped
- The Babylonian names that they gave them were these
- Shadrach, which means I am fearful
- Meshach, which means I am of little account
- Abednego, which means servant of the shining one, which is a Babylonian God
- Even before going to the furnace
- the king wanted to change their identity

1) Who are you

- Now, if we want things to change in our lives
- if we want to be the person God has designed us to be
- then we must know who we are
- our identity must be centered in Christ
- to the point that no matter if my name gets changed
- I know who I am
- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego
- had the opportunity to choose from the very beginning
- in chapter 1
- to eat from the King's food
- or please their heavenly Father
- the battle they are facing
- was not a battle of just bowing down and worshiping this image
- it was a battle of identity
- a battle to determine if you were for us or against us
- Although Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego
- we're not living in Israel anymore
- they chose to still have Israel live in them
- In today's culture
- you and I have the opportunity
- to live like Christ
- We choose to fight against the current
- when we know our identity in Christ
- we can overcome the situations and circumstances that surround us

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has^[a] come! **2 Corinthians 5:17 CSB**

- When we know that we are a new creation
- we can walk confidently knowing who is for us
- now I love the words of these men

- They said, if the God we serve exists
- He can rescue us

2) Who do you trust

- Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego told king nebuchadnezzar he can rescue us from the furnace of blazing fire
- Meaning I know the God whom I serve
- I know that although I am in exile
- although I am going through what I am facing
- although I have been removed from my land, although you have taken away my temple
- I believe that the God that I serve
- is the God who can Get Me Out of this blazing furnace
- Not only is he the God who can Get Me Out of this blazing furnace
- He is the God who can rescue us from the power of you, the king
- Now, those are some words that I believe we must take hold of
- Do you trust the God who created the universe
- Do you trust the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob
- Do you trust the God who gave his only begotten Son, Jesus
- Do you trust that God will get you out of the circumstances that you are living in
- because you can know who you are in Christ
- You can know that you are his son or his daughter
- And still not trust him
- You can come to church
- Start the business
- Move to another city
- get married
- and still not trust God's plan for you
- But this is what I love
- Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego say this

- But even if he does not rescue us
- And I think this is where we get stuck in trusting
- We don't want to trust because we don't want the outcome to go the other way
- we're afraid of trusting God
- because it isn't what we want
- and that is the problem
- that comes hell or high water
- You and I have been called to trust him
- not just when everything is going good
- not just when I got the raise
- not just when I got the promotion
- not just when everything is looking my way
- but even if
- I do not get the raise
- I do not get the promotion
- I do not have it in my favor
- I will not back down

3) Just dive in

- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego said
- We want you, as king, to know
- that even if he does not rescue us
- we will not serve your gods
- worship the golden statue
- These three Hebrew men understood something
- they chose to find their identity in who God made them to be
- they chose to trust God
- even when the circumstances were not looking in their favor
- and they said
- even if we die

- we will not bow down to your gods
- or your images
- They were living in a culture that expected them to do this
- They were being influenced by other eunuchs
- They chose to remain faithful
- even if it was going to cost them their lives
- You and I have this opportunity everywhere we go
- We can stand up for our faith
- We can be the hands and feet of Christ
- No matter what we are facing
- We tend to say
- Lord send revival
- Send miracles, signs, and breakthroughs
- But are we willing to stand up
- Are we willing to allow the Holy Spirit
- to govern over our lives
- to the point
- that no matter what comes our way
- no matter if it's not the prettiest
- the best
- Are we willing to stand up for Christ
- the only way things will change
- is if we stand up
- the only way miracle signs and wonders will happen
- is if we allow them to
- the only way God will stand in our midst and in our defense
- is if we let the Holy Spirit be who he wants to be
- our counselor
- our helper

