

PASTOR
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DRIVING IN BABYLON

FAITH FOR THE FIRE | DANIEL 3
JUNE 4TH, 2023

First
BAPTIST CHURCH • LORE

Why do we do the things we do? Four Dominant Life Principles:

1. Circumstances
What's happening around me?

2. Convenience
What's easiest?

3. Criticism
What will others think?

4. Conviction
What is the right thing?

1. The Context:

The plains of Dura, a gold statue and a command to every _____.

“ King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, sixty cubits high and six cubits wide, and set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon. ² He then summoned the satraps, prefects, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates and all the other provincial officials to come to the dedication of the image he had set up. ³ So the satraps, prefects, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates and all the other provincial officials assembled for the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up, and they stood before it. ⁴ Then the herald loudly proclaimed, 'Nations and peoples of every language, this is what you are commanded to do: ⁵ As soon as you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music, you must fall down and worship the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. ⁶ Whoever does not fall down and worship will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace.'”

~ DANIEL 3:1-6 (NIV)

2. The Conflict:

Everyone bows to worship the idol _____.

“ At this time some astrologers came forward and denounced the Jews.” ~ DANIEL 3:8 (NIV)

3. The Challenge:

Bow or _____.

“ Furious with rage, Nebuchadnezzar summoned Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. So these men were brought before the king, ¹⁴ 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? ¹⁵ 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?'”

~ DANIEL 3:13-15 (NIV)

Eight Responses they Could Have Made:

1. We will fall down but not actually worship the idol.
2. We will just do it this one time and then ask for forgiveness.
3. The King has absolute power and we must obey him - God will understand
4. The King appointed us - we owe it to him.
5. This is a foreign land so God will excuse us for following thier customs.
6. Our ancestors set up idols in our temple - so this is not as bad as that.
7. We are not hurting anybody.
8. If we get ourselves killed then who will help our people in exile?

- Life Application Bible

NOTES CONTINUE | ➤

4. Their Conviction:

We will _____.

“ Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, ‘King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. ¹⁷ If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty’s hand. ¹⁸ 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.’”

~ DANIEL 3:16-18 (NIV)

Christian Conviction Says...

- I believe God is _____.
- I expect God will _____.
- Even if He does not I still will _____.

5. The Consequences:

The Furnace was _____.

“ Nebuchadnezzar was furious ... and ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual.” ~ DANIEL 3:19 (NIV)

6. The Champion:

There was another _____ with them!

“ three men, firmly tied, fell into the blazing furnace.
²⁴ 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.’
²⁵ 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.’”

~ DANIEL 3:23b-25 (NIV)

“ But now, this is what the Lord says– he who created you, Jacob, he who formed you, Israel: ‘Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. ² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.’”

~ ISAIAH 43:1-2 (NIV)

SO WHAT?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: COMMUNITY GROUP VIDEOS available on the APP |

- 1- On a scale of 1-10 how good are you at dealing with peer pressure?
- 2- Read Daniel 3:1-15 Try and put yourself in the sandals of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. What do you think they might have been thinking and feeling at that time?
- 3- Read Daniel 3:16-25. What stands out to you from this famous scene?
- 4- Read Daniel 3:26-30. What is Nebuchadnezzar's response to all of this? How do you see the correlation between the faith of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and the response of Nebuchadnezzar?
- 5- Is there an area in your life where you would like to live with more conviction? How can the presence of God's Spirit alive in you help you with that?

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