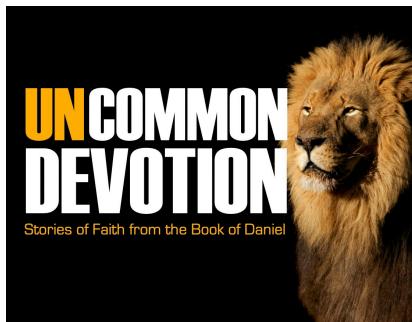


SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia Message...

Devoted to the God who Saves

With Ryan Dawson - Lead Pastor
January 25, 2026



How do we live with uncommon devotion when life heats up?

Daniel 3:14-18 (NLT) Nebuchadnezzar said to them, "Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you refuse to serve my gods or to worship the gold statue I have set up? ¹⁵ I will give you one more chance to bow down and worship the statue I have made when you hear the sound of the musical instruments. But if you refuse, you will be thrown immediately into the blazing furnace. **And then what god will be able to rescue you from my power?**

- **Love God supremely.**

Daniel 3:16-18 (NLT) Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego replied, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you. ¹⁷ 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. ¹⁸ 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."

- **Trust God fully.**

Daniel 3:17-18 (NLT) If we are thrown into the blazing furnace ...God...is able to save us....But even if he doesn't... we will never serve your gods or worship the gold statue you have set up."

- **It's not the size of your faith that matters. It's where you place it that matters.**

- **See Christ clearly.**

Daniel 3:24-30 (NLT) But suddenly, Nebuchadnezzar jumped up in amazement and exclaimed to his advisers, "Didn't we tie up three men and throw them into the furnace?" "Yes, Your Majesty, we certainly did," they replied. ²⁵ "Look!" Nebuchadnezzar shouted. **"I see four men, unbound, walking around in the fire unharmed! And the fourth looks like a god!"** ²⁶ Then Nebuchadnezzar came as close as he could to the door of the flaming furnace and shouted: "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!" So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego stepped out of the fire.²⁷ Then the high officers, officials, governors, and advisers crowded around them and saw that the fire had not touched them. Not a hair on their heads was singed, and their clothing was not scorched. They didn't even smell of smoke! ²⁸ Then Nebuchadnezzar said, "Praise to the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego! He sent his angel to rescue his servants who trusted in him. They defied the king's command and were willing to die rather than serve or worship any god except their own God. ²⁹ Therefore, I make this decree: If any people, whatever their race or nation or language, speak a word against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, they will be torn limb from limb, and their houses will be turned into heaps of rubble. There is no other god who can rescue like this!" ³⁰ Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to even higher positions in the province of Babylon.

1 Peter 3:18 (NLT) "Christ suffered for our sins once for all time. He never sinned, but he died for sinners to bring you safely home to God. He suffered physical death, but he was raised to life in the Spirit."

Big Idea: Trust God's heart even when you can't trace His hand.

*"Lord, I may not understand my circumstances...
I may be walking through a fire right now...
But I trust Your heart, even when I can't trace Your hand."*



Sequoia Impact Communities are where we live out our identity as a Family of Servants on Mission.
To get plugged in email:
impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

Devoted to the God who Saves
#3 of 7 - January 25, 2026

Context

- 1) Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were living as exiles under intense cultural and political pressure. What similarities do you see between their context in Babylon and the pressures Christians face today?
- 2) Why do you think decisions of devotion made *ahead of time* matter so much when trials arise?

Observation

- 3) Read Daniel 3:16–18 together. What words or phrases stand out to you, especially in how these three men speak to the king?
- 4) In Daniel 3:24–25, God doesn't prevent the fire but meets them in it. What do you notice about *how* God saves them—and what He doesn't change about their circumstances?

Meaning

- 5) What does this story teach us about the difference between trusting God for a specific outcome and trusting God's character?
- 6) How does the appearance of the fourth person in the furnace deepen our understanding of who God is—especially in light of Jesus and the cross?

Application

- 7) The sermon said, "*You are what you love most.*" What are some modern "idols" that subtly compete for your devotion?
- 8) Where do you currently feel like the heat is turned up in your life? How is God inviting you to trust Him—not just for deliverance, but *in the fire*?
- 9) What would it look like for you this week to love God *first and most* in one concrete area of your life—especially where trust feels hardest right now?



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