



DANIEL CHAPTER 3 PART 1

17 If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. 18 But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up.” - Daniel 3:17-18.

King Nebuchadnezzar set up a 90-foot-tall Gold statue to be worshiped by his subjects just after hearing the dream interpretation that he was the gold head on a statue doomed to collapse. Also, that God’s kingdom would reign forever. I can’t help but think that this is the king’s attempt to signify that his own kingdom should reign forever or that he is the ‘whole statue’. Either way, it begs the question, What kingdom are we trying to immortalize, our own or God’s? Idol worship isn’t always about a golden calf, but it is ALWAYS about desiring something more than God or letting something get in the way of or misrepresent God. When Christians replace God with a tangible item or icon of God it is the same result. No matter how pure our intentions were we are still ‘cheating’ on God. Our study this week revealed that our intentions are irrelevant when worshiping a sovereign God. The only thing that matters is an obedient heart. Obedient even to death? Well, yes. Jesus told his followers (us) “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross [a]daily, and follow Me.” (Lk 9:23) Jesus literally commands us to put our human feelings, wants and desires to death daily in order to follow him. And Him has a lot more to do with faith than belief. The belief that there is a God is different from the faith it takes to trust him, and his plan completely in every aspect of life. Even trusting that if God would not rescue us from certain doom, he is still good and sovereign over all.

With your small group, choose a popular worship song or hymn to ‘dissect.’ Does it contain obvious truths of God? Where is it found in scripture?

Discussion Questions

1. King Nebuchadnezzar proclaimed God was the King of King’s and God above all Gods with his mouth, but then turned around and built a giant monument to himself. How often do we see Christians worship God with their lips, but worship themselves with their actions?
2. How do you worship and connect to God outside of music? b. What does it mean to you to worship in Spirit in Truth?
3. True worship of God, true love of God, is sacrifice. How and what do you sacrifice for God daily/weekly/monthly/annually?
4. A good thing can become a bad thing when it gets in the way of the best thing. Are there good things in your life that tend to get in the way of the Best thing?
5. Our culture is so steeped in social media. We want to live out someone’s highlight reel, and we want instant gratification. What can we do to remove the idols in our society and slow down our schedule to make time for God and “be still and know that [He is] God”?
6. Examine your walk with God, how have you grown since you’ve known Him? What do you want your faith to look like in the next year and how can you be intentional to achieve that goal?