

# Daniel Part 3 HANDOUT

3.8.26

There are moments in life when the pressure to conform becomes unmistakable.

## **Will you stand... or will you bow?**

**Daniel 3:1** <sup>1</sup>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.

This wasn't subtle. This was propaganda.

**Daniel 3:4-6** <sup>4</sup>Then the herald loudly proclaimed, "Nations and peoples of every language, this is what you are commanded to do: <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not fall down and worship will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace."

- This was not about **believing** in the statue.
- It was about **bowing** to it.

## **KEY THOUGHT #1** Culture Always Demands What Belongs to God

Because worship always answers one question: **What ultimately rules your life?**

***The moment worship is distributed everywhere...It no longer belongs to God.***

**Daniel 3:7-11** <sup>7</sup>Therefore, as soon as they heard the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp and all kinds of music, all the nations and peoples of every language fell down and worshiped the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up...

<sup>11</sup>and that whoever does not fall down and worship will be thrown into a blazing furnace.

## **KEY THOUGHT #2** The moment you refuse to bow is the moment your faith becomes visible

**Daniel 3:12-15** ...<sup>13</sup>Furious with rage, Nebuchadnezzar summoned Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. So these men were brought before the king, <sup>14</sup>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? <sup>15</sup>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?"

And pressure often works exactly like this.

- “Don’t make this a big deal.”
- “Why are you being so extreme?”

**Daniel 3:16–18** <sup>16</sup>Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, “King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. <sup>17</sup>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. <sup>18</sup>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.”

- Faith that believes God **can...**But obeys God even if He **doesn't**.

**KEY THOUGHT #3** Real Faith Obeys God Without Demanding the Outcome

- If God is truly God...Obedience is not optional.

**Daniel 3:19, 22-25** <sup>19</sup>Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and his attitude toward them changed. He ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual...<sup>22</sup>The king’s command was so urgent and the furnace so hot that the flames of the fire killed the soldiers who took up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, <sup>23</sup>and these three men, firmly tied, fell into the blazing furnace. <sup>24</sup>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.”

<sup>25</sup>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.”

- God doesn’t always keep His people **out of the fire**. But He promises to be **with them in it**.

**KEY THOUGHT #4** God Is Present in the Fire

**Daniel 3:26-27** <sup>26</sup>Nebuchadnezzar then approached the opening of the blazing furnace and shouted, “Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!” So Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the fire, <sup>27</sup>and the satraps, prefects, governors and royal advisers crowded around them. They saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies, nor was a hair of their heads singed; their robes were not scorched, and there was no smell of fire on them.

The furnace doesn’t always destroy faith. Sometimes it **reveals it**.

**LIFE POINT:** If you refuse to bow to the idols of culture, God will stand with you in the fire.