

“Even If...”

Daniel Message Series Week 3

Daniel 3

Pastor Jeff Burkholder

January 20, 2019

How does the story of the fiery furnace relate to my life?

1. **We are more like Nebuchadnezzar than we want to admit—pride.**

“I know we do not naturally incline ourselves to identify with Nebuchadnezzar at this point, but I suspect we should. Do we not sometimes exalt ourselves beyond what we should? Do we not often act as if matters of destiny are in our hands and not God’s? Do we not draw attention to who we are, whom we know, and what we have done? Is not the same pride that is in the heart of this king lurking in our own? I want so badly to identify with these three Jewish men, but before I do I must first ask, Who is the God who will deliver me from my sin, pride, and arrogance? Who will deliver me from me?”

Daniel L. Akin, *Christ-Centered Exposition: Exalting Jesus in Daniel*, B&H Publishing Group, Nashville, TN, 2017, p. 34-35.

“We’ll spend our days trying to hijack the Story of God, turning it into the story of us. Inverting reality, we’ll live every day as though life is all about you and me. We’ll live like the world is our habitation alone, existence our playground, and God our servant (that is, if we decide we need Him at all.) We will throw every ounce of our energy into the fleeting story of us. Calling the shots, our me-centered thinking will dictate every move we make and how we feel. The Story already has a star, and that star is not you or me.”

Louie Giglio, *I am Not but I Know I AM*. Multnomah Books, Colorado Spring, CO, 2012, p. 11-12.

“Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for ‘God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.’ Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you,”

1 Peter 5:5-6

**2. We must be willing to obey God no matter the cost.
(Luke 14:25-34)**

“But be on your guard. For they will deliver you over to councils, and you will be beaten in synagogues, and you will stand before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them. And the gospel must first be proclaimed to all nations. And when they bring you to trial and deliver you over, do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit.”

Mark 13:9-11

“But Peter and the apostles answered, ‘We must obey God rather than men.’”

Acts 5:29

“And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.”

Matthew 10:28

“The way I see it, we ought to be willing to die. In the military, we were taught that to obtain our objectives we had to be willing to be expendable. Missionaries must face that same expendability.”

I would simply add that every follower of the crucified Nazarene should have that same sense of expendability. Jesus is worth it. And he will give you the courage and strength to do it. After all, our God is able!”

Newell, from Daniel L. Akin, *Christ-Centered Exposition: Exalting Jesus in Daniel*, B&H Publishing Group, Nashville, TN, 2017, p. 37.

**3. We must trust God no matter what the outcome.
(Hebrews 11:32-40)**

- **Trust in God’s power.** (Genesis 18:13-14; Job 42:2; Jeremiah 32:17; Luke 1:37; Matthew 19:26)
- **Trust in God’s promises.** (Isaiah 41:10; Romans 8:28-29; Genesis 50:20; 2 Corinthians 12:9-10; 2 Peter 1:3)
- **Trust in God’s presence.** (Isaiah 43:1-3; Hebrews 13:5b-6)