Faith Through The Fire

Tony Mauck · Daniel 3:1–30

INTRODUCTION

- Whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be cast into the midst of a furnace of blazing fire.
- But even if he does not, let it be known to you, O king, that we are not going to serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.
- God is further declaring the awesome power that He has. That He can not only preserve them from the flame, but even the smell that would go along with it.

1 Called to Face Fiery Trials

James 1:2–4; Revelation 2:10

- God's people are called to face fiery trials for the sake of putting God first in their lives.
- Consider it all joy, my brethren. When you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.
- Be faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.
- But not everybody receives deliverance.
- If anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not feel ashamed, but in that name, let him glorify God.

2 They Put Their Trust in God

Daniel 3:28; 1 John 5:21; Hebrews 11:33–38

- So as not to serve or worship any God except their own. That was non-negotiable for them.
- They had every confidence in God's presence and that he was watching them, that he was observing this particular incident, and that he was able to deliver them.
- We need to have the determination of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego that whatever it is, I'm going to put my trust in God.
- The decision for these three men was made long before they ever came into the presence of the king.
- It may not be fire, but it hurts a lot.

3 They Violated the King's Command

Daniel 3:16–18; Acts 5:29

- They said no. We're going to have to learn to say that word when the time of testing comes.
- Not, well, we'll see. Maybe this once. God will understand. No, we need to say no.
- We've already decided where we're going to stand. Even if no one else does, I don't need to give you an answer.
- We must obey God rather than men.

4 They Yielded Up Their Bodies

- And then they were willing to go all the way and yield up their bodies.
- What a marvelous example Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah are to us who are called to be living sacrifices.
- We must yield up our bodies in the service to Christ.
- We have already laid down our lives for Him. That's what our baptism meant.

5 Who Said These Words? King Nebuchadnezzar

Daniel 3:28

- Who said these words? King Nebuchadnezzar did.
- I'm going to let your friends render the verdict.
- Will they say you were different? Or they were just like me.
- What does the world see in you and me? Do they see people who are living by a different standard?

THE CHALLENGE

So what do your friends say about you? Are we different? May the Lord help us this week to think about the impact we can have on the world by being loyal to Jesus and putting our trust in him regardless of the consequences.

MY NOTES