

October 30-31, 2021

Title: The Book of Daniel 1-3: Courageous Character Pt 3, “Glory in the Fire” – Daniel 3:1-30

Big Idea: The Lord tests our allegiance, purifies our worship and reveals His glory in the fire.

What in the message stood out to you?

Read Daniel 3. What questions do you have?

Have you ever felt like God gave you into the hands of your enemies? Why do you think He does that sometimes? What promises from Him helped you make it through that time?

Read Isaiah 43:1-2. How does this promise help you?

1. The Lord tests our allegiance in the fire – Daniel 3:1-15

How do you identify with the idolatrous condition of the king? Why must we identify with King Nebuchadnezzar before we try to identify with the three Jews?

Nebuchadnezzar’s homage to Daniel’s God at the end of chapter 2 was shallow and short lived. How can we discern when praise and repentance are genuine?

The Hebrew men faced enormous pressure to conform. How does our culture pressure believers to reject God and conform to the status quo?

What are some of the idols of our day that vie for our worship?

List some of the ways we are asked to compromise within our culture if we are going to fit within the general public.

2. The Lord purifies our worship in the fire – Daniel 3:16-18

Reflect on your life as a Christian. Have you ever faced a furnace, albeit a much less hot one than in Daniel 3, in order to remain faithful? Have you ever turned back?

What are some situations in your life right now in which you may have to show courage under fire the way Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had to in this text?

How are you tempted to react when accusers and critics come against you? How does this line up with the reactions of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego?

Why is it often too late to develop our convictions in the moment of truth?

What does it mean to view your life as expendable for the sake of God's kingdom? What did these three men care about more than their lives?

How do you think it would feel to make a choice of faith that you knew could very easily result in your own death?

3. The Lord reveals His glory in the fire – Daniel 3:19-30

When God doesn't deliver us from dangers, trials, disease, or even death, does that mean he has abandoned us? Why or why not?

How does the presence of Christ affect the way you face temptations to worship and chase after other gods?

What is most difficult in your life at the moment? Are you tempted to see it as judgment? What would change if you viewed it as refinement, as proving the genuineness of your faith?

"God will see his people through." How does that particularly reassure you today?

Who needs you to encourage them with this truth today?

Oneness & Witness Takeaways:

- Pledge your allegiance to the One True King
- Let the fires of trouble and persecution purify your worship so that you worship HIM alone and not His gifts
- Do not succumb to the pressure and bow to the image, but stand in the love, joy and power of the Lord.