

July 6 & 7

Heroes – Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego

Daniel 3:4-6 “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.... Whoever does not fall down and worship will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace.”

Daniel 3:14,15 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? 15 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?”

Daniel 3:16-18 “King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. 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. 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.”

Daniel 3:24,25 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? Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods.”

It's an ancient story, but it's a very MODERN problem.

The human heart has the potential to be an IDOL MAKING factory!

“An idol is anything more important to you than God. Anything that absorbs your heart and imagination more than God. Anything you seek to give you what only God can give.” - Tim Keller, Counterfeit Gods

God will MEET us IN the furnace.

Daniel 3:26 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!” 28 “Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants!

God CAN REACH OTHERS through the furnace.

God CAN BLESS you through the furnace.

James 1:12 Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

There is a great danger in making the PRIMARY GOAL of our lives FURNACE AVOIDANCE.

Our desire to hear from Him tends to be very INFORMATIONAL.

Let's seek God to be in relationship with Him, and EXPERIENCE the living God personally.

Having your spiritual radar up in constant anticipation of His presence – even in the midst of the joyful chaos and regular rhythms of your everyday living – is paramount in hearing God, because sometimes the place and manner you find Him is the least spectacular you'd expect.” - Priscilla Shirer