



Roar, Finding Truth in the World of Opinions

Part 3: No Matter What

Key Text: Daniel 3

Sunday, May 3, 2020

Will you worship the risen Savior when your faith is tested? It has been said that a faith that has been tested is faith that can be trusted. Will you trust him when you do not know the outcome? Do you have a resolve like Shadrach, Meshack, and Abednego that say, we believe the impossible, but even if God does not answer as we prefer, we will never bow down to an idol. In Daniel, chapter 3, we see a compelling story of three men who would not relent in their worship of God.

Our culture is pulling us away from the worship of Jesus Christ. May we be laser-focused in our devotion to Jesus. What are those things that are distracting or tempting you to worship?

1. The World Will Go After Your Worship. (Daniel 3:1-12)

²⁸ "We gave you strict orders never again to teach in this man's name!" he said. "Instead, you have filled all Jerusalem with your teaching about him, and you want to make us responsible for his death!"²⁹ But Peter and the apostles replied, "**We must obey God rather than any human authority.**" Acts 5:28-29

- We all worship something.

The definition of idolatry, according to Webster, is "the worship of idols or excessive devotion to, or reverence for some person or thing." An idol is anything that replaces the one, true God. The most prevalent form of idolatry in Bible times was the worship of images that were thought to embody the various pagan deities.¹

Paul Tillich, a German-American theologian of the mid-twentieth century, helpful, namely, that of "Ultimate Concern." Tillich pointed out that a person's God is the thing or person that one is most concerned about, thinks the most about, or affects one's life the most.²

Idols of this world – Be careful not to be seduced by the gods of this world.

- Success
- Power
- Wealth
- Relationships
- Comfort
- Relaxation
- There is nothing wrong with any of these in any of them by themselves. The issue is excessive devotion to any of these things. Who is on the throne of your life?

2. The World Will Force You to Take a Stand. (Daniel 3:13-18)

The world will say to do what we say or else.

Three Key Phrases:

My God is able

My God will

But even if

- Let this be the battle cry for all of us who are Christ Followers.
- Can you imagine the enormous risk they are taking for God?
- What is your fiery furnace? What is God calling you too, and the world is calling you away from that? It is all about what God is doing in my heart and through my worship.
- As the world watches, you worship our Savior; the world will say I don't get that. This is your opportunity to share with this broken world.

¹ <https://www.gotquestions.org/idolatry-definition.html>

² Longman, T., III. (1999). [Daniel](#) (p. 107). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House.

- It is not trusting if...; it is trust in God no matter what. (Radical worship) We are called to a life of surrender.
- These men had incredible faith as these men do not seek out death, but they do not cower. They refuse to relent even with the possibility of death by taking a stand.

*Loyalty to a godless and foolish king brings death, not the life one would expect. But what about those who refuse obedience when it comes to a choice between faithfulness to Nebuchadnezzar and to God himself?*³

- God uses tests to refine people to bring Him glory.

3. The World Will Cast Doubt to Your Faith (Daniel 3:19-30)

- A little detail about the furnace. We know that 150 degrees for three seconds will cause third-degree burns.

Our picture of this furnace is supplied by the description of the text rather than any firm archaeological knowledge. For the narrative to make sense, the furnace must be large. Some scholars have suggested that this is a furnace near the plain of Dura that was used to make the great golden image in the first place.

*Apparently, the three are thrown in from an opening at the top, but Nebuchadnezzar's ability to look into the furnace indicates that perhaps there was a window or opening at the side as well.*⁴

- Most clay furnaces of this age burned at 1000 – 3,000 Degrees. (Nebuchadnezzar wanted it seven times hotter)
- Sometimes you will suffer for doing the right thing. Sometimes God takes us around suffering; other times, He walks us right through the fire. However, he is with us.

²⁹Therefore, I make this decree: If any people, whatever their race or nation or language, speak a word against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, they will be torn limb from limb, and their houses will be turned into heaps of rubble. There is no other god who can rescue like this!" Daniel 3:29

- Believe God, not just believe in God.

One Last Thought: When situations look dire and bleak, I challenge you to worship Jesus. He helps us to see Him as more massive than our problems.

³ Longman, T., III. (1999). [Daniel](#) (p. 102). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House.

⁴ Longman, T., III. (1999). [Daniel](#) (p. 102). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House.