



Three Friends of Daniel

Main Scriptures: Daniel chapter 6



Nebuchadnezzar the king built an image of gold whose height was 27 meters and its width was 2.7 meters in the plain of Dura.

And he shouted in the celebration of completion,

“When you hear the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, fall down and worship the gold image. Otherwise, the person will be cast immediately into the fiery furnace.”

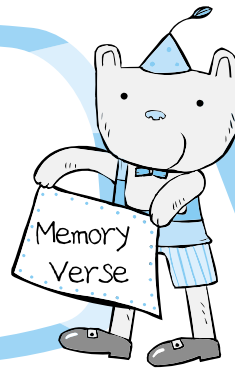
However, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego did not worship the gold image. Then Nebuchadnezzar got angry in fury and commanded to bring them. He ordered again to worship the image.

“If you do not worship, I will throw you into the burning furnace. Then who can deliver you from my hands?”

Three persons answered to the king.

“O king, we don't have to answer you for this. If we are cast into the fire, our God whom we serve can deliver us from the burning furnace and from your hand. But if not, we won't serve your gods nor worship the gold image!”

But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up. (Daniel 3:18)



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Then Nebuchadnezzar became full of fury and commanded to heat the furnace seven times more than usual time.

By the way, Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished at the view in the fire and asked his counselors,

“Didn’t we cast three men?” “Look! I see four men loose walking in the midst of fire. They are not hurt and the fourth is like the son of God!”

The king went near the mouth of the burning furnace and spoke,

“Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, servants of the Most High God, come out!”

Then three men came out from the furnace. They had no burns, their hairs were not singed, their garments were not affected, and there were no smell on them.

At that time, Nebuchadnezzar said,

“Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego! God delivered His servants who trusted in Him and devoted their lives not to worship other gods. Therefore, I make a decree that any people, nation, or language that speak any thing against God is to be punished! It is because there is no other God who can deliver like this!”





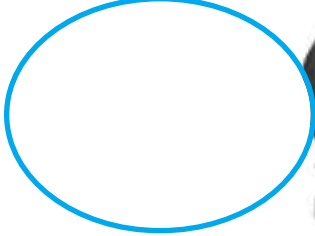
So the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego in the province of Babylon.



Today's Study

Like three friends of Daniel

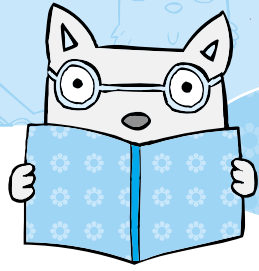
1. When the king commanded to worship the image of gold, how did three men feel? Assume that you are three friends and draw circle around your thought or describe your mind.

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| <p>"I have no idea about what to do. I don't want to worship the image of gold but the king's command is very scary!"</p> | <p>"I don't fear anything because I believe in God!"</p> |
|  |  |
|  | <p>"Because the king's command is too scary, I have no choice but to worship gods!"</p> |

2. Why did you select it?

3. When the king said to threaten three men that he would cast them into the burning furnace, how did they answer? After reading Daniel 3:15~18, write down key words.

"In God I have put my trust: I will not be afraid what man can do unto me.
(Psalm 56:11)



Today's Study

Before threat of death, they said,

"If not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up." from this answer, what do you learn or feel?

We can win by trusting God!

Trusting God means that you do not yield to every evil impulse and rely on God for help.

Resist him, steadfast in the faith, (1 Peter 5:9)

Do you have anything to give trouble or fear?
Let's think about it and make a decision to trust God like three men.



* Scary things :

* Things to give trouble :

* Decision to trust God :



Parable



God of if not

During World War 2, there was a notorious region (as iron kettle for human bodies) named Helescosta in which 6 million Jews were murdered. After seeing his people disappeared with smokes treated less than animals, Elie Wiesel who survived the holocaust said,

"God is dead. If there were God, I am a prosecutor and he is the defense. If God exists, how can these things happen? I am falsely charged and cannot stand this."

Actually, these are common actions of people in the world.

However, in case of Christians, it is different because we have the "if not" faith. Even if we encounter troubles and pains, we pray to God for help instead of complaint. During our life, we may suffer from unexpected pains. If we believe in Jesus, a short period of pain can become happiness. Sometimes, God leads us to the way other than we expect. In this case, we can confess saying, "If not, I trust the Lord and He is my God." First of all, God wants from us to find something before answering our prayers. That is the attitude of ours. He wants to find our mind when we are in times of hardship.

Parents

Teacher