

Fireproof

Tension:

- Focusing on the life of Daniel, who was extraordinarily able to remain faithful, pure [undefiled], and 'different' - set apart - in the unGodly culture in which he found himself
Daniel and his friends were 'aliens' and 'foreigners' in a strange land
Different culture
Actually citizens of another country, Israel, living in a foreign land/kingdom
Parallel= we are citizens of heaven/ Kingdom of God and are living in a 'foreign land'= "the world
Emphasized last week the need to repent of the ways we have become defiled and of the world, and let the Holy Spirit identify things in our lives that have to go
This weeks passage focuses on The Three's being forced to worship an idol, or die...they would not let their devotion to the Lord be trumped;
What willing to risk (give up) in order to be faithful - 'but if not' still not going to worship your idol [S/M/A willing to give up everything, even their very life...what do we give up?]

Daniel 3:1

- 6 cubits wide = 9 feet
- 60 cubits = 90 feet tall - twice the height of the Hollywood sign; 15 times taller than me;

Daniel 3:2-6

- Our context the thought falling down and worshipping a 90 foot gold statue seems ridiculous
- Ridiculous to think we would worship a statue...or something other than God...like a house...or an UGA statue...or a church building...or family picture...but we do - these are the things we run after and they are not bad things, but they do challenge our devotion to God, and sometimes edge God out all together, except maybe an hour on Sunday, maybe
 - What are you devoted to?, What do we spend our time on? More jacked up to watch Netflix or get into the Word?, What do you talk more about with folks, football or Jesus, What do you spend more money on, God's storehouse
- Daniel / S/M/A asked to do the very thing that led to a loss of favor for Judah: Disobedience; Didn't keep the covenant
 - Ignored the sabbath years
 - Idolatry (Lev. 25:4, 26:27-35; Duet 28:15-68; 2 Kings 25:1, 2 Chr. 36: 20-21)
 - Chose other gods
- Rebellion and disobedience leads to loss of favor
- Problem today, WE want biblical favor of God without biblical devotion
- "Immediately"
 - Many times throughout the Bible
 - Usually in reference to obedience
 - Here= obedience to the wrong thing= idols
- wants to be the guy who flips the band switch (chicken dance), like just to mess with them
- Why a furnace? Normal Ancient Near East practice? Trying to figure out how to be meaner - upping the game of execution

Daniel 3:7-12

- Astrologer tattle tales - motive? "Certain Jews", maybe not all Jews?- Just Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, Where's Daniel?
- First commandment of the Ten Commandments, Exodus 20:3-6

Daniel 3:13-15

- 2nd chance given
- 'Immediately', again
- 'What god will be able to rescue'= We know the answer

Daniel 3:16-18

- “The God we serve”
 - Who are you serving?
 - What are we willing to give up to be faithful?
 - What do you give up now to be faithful?
 - Most people aren’t even willing to give up an hour a week to worship, We lack devotion
 - Francis Chan: “In our impatient culture, we want to experience biblical awe without biblical devotion. At the core of our dysfunction is...a lack of devotion. Why are Christians only willing to give 90 minutes a week (if that!) to the only thing that really matters in their lives!”
 - God is our Deliverer, rescuer
- V.18
 - Even if he does not
 - We will not serve your gods
 - Obedience to the commandment from God
 - NO PLAN B - Bill Johnson
 - Today’s Christians always have a plan B
 - CAN’T HAVE biblical favor w/o biblical devotion

Daniel 3:19-25

- Other versions says that Nebuchadnezzar’s “face was distorted”
- V. 20 ‘tie up’, ‘bound’ other versions
- Some believe it was an angel, we believe it was Jesus
 - One of the OT touchpoints where Jesus is on the scene, Captain of the Lord’s army passage
 - “Unbound”- Jesus breaks our bondage= Jesus and fire of the Holy Spirit breaks our bondage

Daniel 3:26-27

- NOT “servants of Nebuchadnezzar” but of the “Most High God”- Capital G!
- Bodies not harmed
- Robes not scorched!
- Not smell of fire
- NOT a HAIR singed!= Other guys incinerated just getting close!= Emphasis on COMPLETE protection
- The fire had not harmed their bodies, other translations “not had any power over the bodies of those men”
- Power of God stronger than fire
- Baptized by Fire= Fire of the Holy Spirit

Daniel 3:28

- Nebuchadnezzar praised God
 - Experience/witness the power of God leads to praise
- Faith
 - Holy Spirit gift
 - Trusted Him supernaturally to deliver them
- “Disobeyed the king’s command”= **Mark 8:35**

Daniel 3:29-30

- Don’t know if Nebuchadnezzar’s decree is the appropriate reaction
- No other god can SAVE in this way!
- God promoted= Favor with God and Man (Last week)

Closing

- Consider: ;What are you devoted to? The lesser things or the Great I AM! Having a greater devotion for the things of this world over and above or even equal to God is not OK...
- Call to Action: Repent; search your life - what idols exist...honestly? Things you are devoted to more than God? Time to tear them down, remove them...Decide what's most important...? And then live that out...through Holy Spirit's leading, prayer, increased devotion to the Lord
- CAN'T HAVE biblical favor w/o biblical devotion
- No Plan B - committed to God, but have a back-up plan, or is God your Plan A, B, C, Z...