



Big Idea: Faith in the fire is better than life.

- v. 1-2 – Nebuchadnezzar’s Narcissism – Like most people who do not know God, Nebuchadnezzar was simply worshipping himself.
- v. 3-7 – Calamitous Consequences – These men were driven by external pressure, not internal principle.

1.) Faith in the fire demands *CONVICTION* (v. 8-12).

- v. 12 – Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego stood up for what was right even when the entire culture bowed to what was wrong.
- God is glorified in believers whose attitudes and actions flow from conviction, not circumstances.
 - While the Babylonian kingdom caved to the king, three young men stood on principle.
 - *Do you routinely stand on principle or succumb to pressure? Do you do what God wills or do you do whatever works?*
- Holiness begins with internal convictions from God’s Word (Psalm 119:109-112).

2.) Faith in the fire demands *COURAGE* (v. 8-10, 13-15).

- v. 8-10 – Christian conviction always encounters opposition (John 15:20-21, 2 Timothy 3:12-13).
 - If our convictions are not inspiring some kind of opposition, we may not be demonstrating any.
- Conviction without courage is not really conviction at all.
 - v. 13-15 – These three young men are exemplary in courage.
 - Christian conviction will never glorify God or bless others if we lack the courage to stand up for it (Luke 9:26).
 - *If we fail to stand for Biblical truth, how will the world know His holiness? If we won’t stand for Christ, how will the Gospel be made known?*

3.) Faith in the fire demands **CONFIDENCE** (v. 16-17).

- v. 16-17 – All they offer the king is the confident assertion that their God is greater than him.
- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had no fear of Nebuchadnezzar because they had supreme confidence in God.
- Fear of the world always begins with misunderstandings about God (Luke 12:4-5, 1 John 4:18).
- Keeping faith in the fire requires an **ETERNAL** perspective.
 - We have been given infinite cause for confidence through God's eternal promises to us in Christ (Psalm 56:3-4, Philippians 1:21).
 - *In light of God's eternal purposes for His people, what have we to fear on earth?*

4.) Faith in the fire demands **COMMITMENT** (v. 18).

- v. 18 – *“But even if he does not...”*
 - Their commitment was to God and His glory alone.
 - God is not glorified by fair weather followers.
- One of God's chief purposes in our trials is to reveal His power and glory.
 - Nebuchadnezzar's evil decree happened as part of God's purpose to show His glory to His creation (John 9:1-3).
 - God's glory and power will never be revealed through quitters or complainers.
- v. 18 – Spiritual **INTEGRITY** is more valuable than life.
 - Standing firm on God's truth was more important than their lives.
 - The consistent message of Scripture is this: It is better to die than to dishonor God.

-- Application Questions

- *Do we have the same attitude towards the idols that beckon us to bow, such as the idols of popularity, comfort, fame, or status in the world?*
- *Are we guided more by internal biblical principles or by the external pressures of the world? Do our lives flow from our convictions or our circumstances?*