



## Devoted: Trial By Fire

### Daniel 3

*Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.  
In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.*

#### Understanding Idolatry

- ? Summarize the main points of the story of the fiery furnace.
- ? What ideas in our world are we being asked to bow to?
- ? What connection do you see between this golden image and the statue in Daniel 2?
- ? Read Numbers 21:4-9 and 2 Kings 18:4. What happens to the serpent, originally meant for good?
- ? Biblical counselor Paul Tripp says, "A good thing becomes a bad thing when it becomes the ruling thing." What good blessings have started to rule your life?

*"A good thing becomes a bad thing when it becomes the ruling thing."*

*Paul David Tripp*

#### The Power of Worship

*"Idols are formed from pride in our hearts. Idol worship is a result of the condition of our heart."*

Read Daniel 3:8-12:

**8** Therefore at that time certain Chaldeans came forward and maliciously accused the Jews. **9** They declared to King Nebuchadnezzar, "O king, live forever! **10** You, O king, have made a decree, that every man who hears the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, shall fall down and worship the golden image. **11** And whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast into a burning fiery furnace. **12** There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These men, O king, pay no attention to you; they do not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."

- ? What do Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refuse to do? What action do the Chaldeans have such a problem with?
- ? How do you think our worship sets us apart in our current day-and-age?

- ? Do non-Christians know that your worship is different from theirs? What actions in your life display who you worship?

Read Daniel 3:16-20:

*<sup>16</sup>Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. <sup>17</sup>If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king.<sup>[d]</sup> <sup>18</sup>But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up." <sup>19</sup>Then Nebuchadnezzar was filled with fury, and the expression of his face was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. He ordered the furnace heated seven times more than it was usually heated. <sup>20</sup>And he ordered some of the mighty men of his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace.*

- ? How did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego respond to Nebuchadnezzar?
- ? Based on Nebuchadnezzar's reaction to their refusal to worship the image, how should we expect the world to respond to our worship of the one, true God?
- ? Who is the hero of this story? Who is the hero of your story?
- ? Are you facing a fiery trial right now? What action should you take (considering the actions that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego took in verses 12, 16-18)?

*"Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something stranger were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you."*

- 1 Peter 4:12-14

- ? In your current fiery trial, where should you look for your salvation? How can you respond?
- ? What practical ways can you worship God and remind yourself of the source of your salvation this week? Choose from the list below or come up with your own. Share what you plan to do with your group and make plans to hold each other accountable.
1. Memorize a verse. Consider Deuteronomy 31:6, *"Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you."*
  2. Practice daily confession, especially considering if you've made idols of any good things in your life. Ask Christ to help you redirect your heart toward him and his Word.
  3. Listen to the modern hymn, *Christ our Hope in Life and Death* by Matt Boswell and Matt Papa or listen to another worship song every morning when you wake up.
  4. Set aside time to read or listen to Daniel 3 every day this week.
  5. Pray with Jesus from Luke 22:42, *"Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done,"* in response to the unexpected or the disappointing circumstances you experience this week.