



THIS IS WHAT THE LORD SAID WEEK THREE

Bible Reading

Daniel 3

"King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, sixty cubits high and six cubits wide, and set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon. He then summoned the satraps, prefects, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates and all the other provincial officials to come to the dedication of the image he had set up. So the satraps, prefects, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates and all the other provincial officials assembled for the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up, and they stood before it. Then the herald loudly proclaimed, 'Nations and peoples of every language, this is what you are commanded to do: As soon as you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music, you must fall down and worship the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. Whoever does not fall down and worship will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace.' Therefore, as soon as they heard the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp and all kinds of music, all the nations and peoples of every language fell down and worshiped the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up."

Philippians 1:29

"For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him,"

John 15:20

"Remember what I told you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also."

Observation questions

1. In Daniel 3:1–7, how do the gathered officials, the music, and the threatened punishment combine to pressure people into worshiping the statue?
2. In Daniel 3:16–18, what do Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego express confidence about, and what outcome do they leave in God's hands?
3. How does the three men's response to the king differ from his response to their refusal? What details show their firmness without aggression?
4. In Daniel 3:24–28, what does Nebuchadnezzar notice about the men inside the furnace and after they come out? How does his description of their God change?

Interpretation questions

1. Why would publicly bowing to the statue be more than an outward gesture, even if the three men continued believing in God privately?
2. How does the three men's willingness to remain faithful without guaranteed rescue distinguish trust in God from trust in a comfortable outcome?
3. The three men refuse to obey, but they do not try to force the king to share their faith. What does their response reveal about the difference between courageous faithfulness and controlling others?
4. How does Christ's presence in suffering challenge the idea that obedience should keep believers out of painful circumstances? How do Philippians 1:29 and John 15:20 reinforce that distinction?

Application questions

1. Where do you currently feel pressure to compromise your faith—in your workplace, school, family, or friendships? What makes that situation a matter of faithfulness rather than simply a difference in preference?
2. Courage does not require fear to disappear. What possible cost of obedience frightens you most right now, and what might one small, faithful step look like despite that fear?
3. When your beliefs are challenged, do you tend to withdraw, argue, or try to control the conversation? What could a firm but gentle response look like in a specific conversation you may face this week?
4. What outcome are you finding difficult to leave in God's hands? If that situation does not turn out as you hope, what would continuing to trust and worship him look like in practice?
5. God's kingdom will outlast every human power. Is there a person, institution, or circumstance whose influence feels overwhelming to you? How might remembering God's lasting rule change your response this week?
6. In a painful situation you are willing to share, what makes Christ's presence hard to recognize? What could help you remember that you are not alone, and how could this group walk alongside you?