

Series: The Book of Daniel

Sermon: Another In The Fire

**Passage: Daniel 3 (ESV)**

Illustration:

Need: God's people need to be reminded that He is the One who is all powerful and able to deliver them.

#### **I. The Proudful King and his unacceptable demand (3:1-15)**

- The image = 99x9 feet, gold, represented the superiority of the state, religion & King of Babylon.
- To bow was to pledge total and unwavering allegiance to all three.
- Chaldean accusers were likely jealous of and desired the positions of Shadrach, Meshach, & Abednego.
- Exodus 20:3-4 = Thou shalt have no other gods before Me; no creation, possession or worship of idols.

#### **II. The Steadfast Obedience of God's Three Faithful Servants (3:16-22)**

- SMA had two answers for the King's demand:
  - #1: Our God whom we serve *IS* able to deliver us. (Isa. 43:2-3)
  - #2: *But if not...we WILL NOT* serve your gods or worship your enemies. (Deut. 6:4-5)
- "I have decided to follow Jesus, no turning back; the cross before me the world behind me; though none go with me still I will follow"
- Their crime was non-conformity.

#### **III. The Faithful Presence and Deliverance of God (3:22-30)**

- SMA did not perish, nor were they hurt.
- They were walking around in the fire.
- A 4th person who looked like a son of the gods was with them.
- Only the bonds were burned; the fire had no other affect on them.
- The King and all his officials were witnesses of God's supreme and sovereign power to deliver.
- Judaism was declared to be an acceptable religion authorized by the state.
- Psalm 46:1; 118:6; John 1:14; 16:33; Hebrews 11:35-38; Rom. 8:35-39; 12:2

#### **IV. Take Away Applications (Heb. 12:1-2)**

- These examples from Daniel serve to declare of God's power and remind us of His presence.
- Public conformity to the world's demands even with internal disagreement is the same thing as bowing.
- Fear is the most common sin that must be consistently confessed and laid aside.
- We must daily decide to follow Jesus by faith into conflict and suffering as His faithful witnesses.