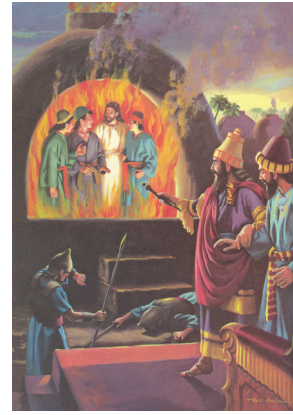


Living Connections

Bible Study



When the Heat Is On

Prayer

In last week's lesson we looked at Acts chapter 12. The history of the early church was filled with miracles and tremendous Church growth. But it was also a time of severe persecution. The more the church grew the more Satan and the enemies of our Lord turned up the heat on Christ's followers. We learned how God protected Peter from the murderous intentions of King Herod and the Jews. We also looked briefly at the example of Daniel's three friends: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. In our lesson this week we are going to take a deeper look to see how we should respond to trial and persecution.

Icebreaker: What is the difference between true convictions and preferences?

Unfortunately, many people wear a price tag. They can be bought. If the price/reward for doing wrong is high enough they will sell out to temptation, or give in to peer-pressure. Or if the consequences for doing what is right are too severe they cave in and go with the flow.

Text: Daniel 3

1. What should Christians expect when they purpose to live a godly life that honors God?
2 Timothy 3:12; John 15:18-20; Luke 21:10-17

2. When King Nebuchadnezzar learned the meaning of his dream in Daniel chapter 2 of the great image depicting the great empires that would rule the earth until Christ's return, what did he do that defied the revelation God had given him regarding the future? Daniel 3:1-6

3. Why would Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego object to bowing down to the King's image? Exodus 20:3-5

4. What did Jesus say would be worse than being tortured and killed by men? Luke 12:4-5

5. What three charges were brought against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego? Which two were true and which one was not true? Daniel 3:8-12

Three charges were brought against them:

6. Why do you suppose that Nebuchadnezzar was willing to give these three Hebrew youths a second chance? Daniel 3:13-15, Daniel 1:19-20, Daniel 2:49

7. What confidence did these three young men express to the king concerning the threat he had made of burning them alive? Daniel 3:16-18

8. How should we look on such opportunities when we are asked to give an account for our convictions? Matthew 10:17-20 & 1 Peter 4:12-16

9. Does God always deliver His children out of the fiery furnace of persecution and trial? Job 2:3-6; 13:15; Hebrews 11:32-40

10. What is God's promise to those who go through fiery trials for Him? Hebrews 13:5 with Daniel 3:19-23; Isaiah 43:2

11. Who was the fourth person that came to walk with these young men in the midst of the fire? Daniel 3:24-25

12. When we honor God by standing up for Him and for righteousness what can we expect? Daniel 3:30; Revelation 2:10; Romans 8:17

Think About this week:

In what areas do I need to take a godly stand in my home, my work place, neighborhood, etc. that will bring glory and honor to God like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego did?

The fear of man brings a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD shall be safe. Proverbs 29:25