

Behind the Scenes

Sermon Questions | 2.14.16

Daniel 3

Opener

Share with us about a time when you experienced the phrase, “*fool me once, shame on you, fool me twice, shame on me...*”.

Nebuchadnezzar made a decree that an enormous statue be created in his honor and that, at an appointed time, everyone in his kingdom was to bow down before it! The focus of this story is around the responses of Daniel’s three friends and God’s deliverance of them through the fire. Yet, Daniel and his friends at one time were taken captive from their own homes and family in Israel. How do we deal with disappointments in life, even disappointments with God?

Read

[Daniel 3](#)

[Genesis 11:4](#)

[1 Peter 4:12-14](#)

Engage with God in a Group

1. Why do you think the Babylonians built this first “tower of Babel” (See Genesis 11:4)?
2. Why do you think Nebuchadnezzar had this new tower or statue of Babel built? How do you think this might relate to the king’s dream in Daniel chapter 2?

3. Early on, Daniel and his friends did not get their prayers answered when they were taken into captivity by the Babylonians. What do you think caused them to be able to trust in God now, when their lives were on the line?
4. King Nebuchadnezzar misinterpreted God's silence in response to his taking Israel years earlier. He decided that God must be impotent. How are we sometimes guilty of doing the same thing?
5. See Daniel 3:17-18. Even though Daniel's friends were not sure if God was able to save them, they trusted in him. Considering this, discuss the following statement: "You don't have to be sure of God's ability or willingness to trust him, you can simply choose to!"
6. How might some of us have allowed petty disappointments in life to accumulate so much that our faith is challenged by them now?
7. The fire had no power over Daniel's friends and one who is like the Son of God (Daniel 3:24-25) was in the fire with them. Discuss the implications of this part of Daniel's account for our lives today as we deal with our own personal "fires" in life.

Engaging with God alone

1. When have you experienced a time when you were not just disappointed in life, but disappointed with God?
2. Take a few moments this week to evaluate how much this experience may have hurt your ability to trust Him now.
3. Ask yourself whether or not you may have misinterpreted His silence and assumed He really doesn't care about you. Trust Him now, even in what appears to be His silence.

Closing

Break into smaller groups of 3-4 people each. Each person share briefly one key thought they leave with today after our discussion about Daniel 3. Each one pray for the person to their right.