

I DARE YOU TO STAND UP!

Daniel 3

I. "Many are the afflictions of the righteous,
but the Lord delivers him out of them all"

Psalm 34:19

Why do the righteous suffer? Why do tragedies
happen to those who love the Lord?

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego dared to
stand up

Lessons to be learned from the three Hebrew children

Your world wants you to *shut up*

Your God wants you to *stand up*

Your opponents may learn to *look up*

II. Nebuchadnezzar sets up a golden image and demands worship

Just another example of a pagan king setting up
an idol

Time will soften; time will heal

Sometimes the heart is hardened over time

Sometimes things grow worse over time

II. Nebuchadnezzar sets up a golden image and demands worship

A warning is given to us in Hebrews 2:1,
“pay attention so we don’t drift away.”

II. Nebuchadnezzar sets up a golden image and demands worship

Nebuchadnezzar is in love with himself

Nebuchadnezzar built a 90' statue of gold

You have to bow down or die

The Book of Revelation tells of another image
and enforced worship

The number of the beast, the number of a man
666 (Revelation 13:18)

II. Nebuchadnezzar sets up a golden image and demands worship

Nebuchadnezzar magnifies humanity, minimizes
God

Demand to bow is met with defiance, three guys
make a stand

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego did nothing
wrong, yet they are facing the trial of their lives

II. Nebuchadnezzar sets up a golden image and demands worship

Obey the law or obey God who said, "You shall have no other gods before me." (Exodus 20:2-3)

We face the pressure to conform

W.C. Fields said, "Any dead fish can float
downstream"

II. Nebuchadnezzar sets up a golden image and demands worship

Del's Trial as a sophomore in High School-
there was a temptation to party –

“there will be beer and girls come party with
us”-thankful for an older brother to help
strengthen one another.

III. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answer the king

vs.16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. ¹⁷ 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. ¹⁸ 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.”

III. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answer the king

God's people often go against the flow

Paul in Romans encourages us to do so, "Do not be conformed to this world but transformed by the renewing of your mind" (Romans 12:2)

J.B. Phillips translation: "Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mold."

God will deliver us in life or in death; either way, it's a deliverance

Where is God When it Hurts? By Phillip Yancey

Story of a pole-vaulter who became a
quadriplegic

Faith to be healed

Peace of mind if I don't get healed

Either one will suffice

King Nebuchadnezzar is furios

The three are bound—tied up
They are thrown into the furnace
There is a fourth one with them
They are unbound
Walking around
They are not trying to get out

The Real Jesus

The Fourth Man in the fiery furnace with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego is the Real Jesus

IV. King Nebuchadnezzar acknowledges God

16 years prior, "Your God is the God of gods"
Daniel 2:47

Now he makes a decree that it is a crime to say
anything against the Jewish God

This is Babylon, ancient Iraq and Iran

IV. King Nebuchadnezzar acknowledges God

The testimony of these three men who stood
up—their life preached

Your life can preach in the midst of suffering—
your fiery trial

V. Three Practical Lessons from Daniel 3

Standing up for God is always better than bowing down; but it's always harder

God is always sovereign whether the outcome is triumph or tragedy

Suffering is the doorway to freedom