

## **Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego**

Bible Stories – Part 4 of 8

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### **Godly friendships withstand tyranny**

*Daniel 1:8 But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the king's food, or with the wine that he drank. Therefore he asked the chief of the eunuchs to allow him not to defile himself." ESV*

*Daniel 3:12 "There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These men, O king, pay no attention to you; they do not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up." ESV*

*Ecclesiastes 4:12 And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken. ESV*

### **"Even If" > "What if?"**

*Daniel 3:16-18 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. <sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> 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." ESV*

### **Nonconformity will cost you**

*Daniel 3:19-20 Then Nebuchadnezzar was filled with fury, and the expression of his face was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. He ordered the furnace heated seven times more than it was usually heated. <sup>20</sup> And he ordered some of the mighty men of his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace." ESV*

*Luke 22:41-42 And He withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, <sup>42</sup> saying, "Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me. Nevertheless, not My will, but Yours, be done." ESV*

## **Our faithfulness to God can pave the way for others' salvation**

*Daniel 3:29-30 "Therefore I make a decree: Any people, nation, or language that speaks anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego shall be torn limb from limb, and their houses laid in ruins, for there is no other god who is able to rescue in this way." <sup>30</sup> Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the province of Babylon." ESV*

### **My Next Step Today is to...**

- ☐ Plug into community and seek to live an open and honest life.
- ☐ Surrender my "What if" scenario to God and declare "Even if...", I will remain faithful.
- ☐ Follow just leadership aggressively and resist where biblical boundaries are crossed.

*Proverbs 25:26 Like a muddied spring or a polluted fountain is a righteous man who gives way before the wicked." ESV*