

Transparency & Integrity

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Message Notes:

Aldersgate Church



The Daniel Dilemma

How to Stand Firm & Love Well in a Culture of Compromise

The eyes of the LORD range throughout the earth to strengthen those **whose hearts are fully committed** to him...

2 Chronicles 16:9 (NIV)

King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, ninety feet high and nine feet wide...you must fall down and worship the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. Whoever does not fall down and worship will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace.

Daniel 3:1-6 (NIV)

BIG IDEA

The Fires We Face have a divine purpose.

Finding Meaning In The Furnace

1. To reveal what We Really Love.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego replied, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God whom we serve is able to save us. He will rescue us from your power, Your Majesty. But even if he doesn't, we want to make it clear to you, Your Majesty, that we will never serve your gods or worship the gold statue you have set up."

Daniel 3:16-18 (NLT)

2. To remove what Has Us Bound.

Nebuchadnezzar was so furious with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego that his face became distorted with rage. He commanded that the furnace be heated **seven times** hotter than usual. Then he ordered some of the strongest men of his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace. So they tied them up and threw them into the furnace, fully dressed in their pants, turbans, robes, and other garments. And because the king, in his anger, had demanded such a hot fire in the furnace, the flames killed the soldiers as they threw the three men in. So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, securely tied, fell into the roaring flames. Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, "Weren't there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?" They replied, "Certainly, O king." He said, "Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods."

Daniel 3:19-26 (NLT)

3. To rescue us from Smelling Like Babylon.

Nebuchadnezzar then approached the opening of the blazing furnace and shouted, "Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!" So Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the fire, and the satraps, prefects, governors and royal advisers crowded around them. They saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies, nor was a hair of their heads singed; their robes were not scorched, and **there was no smell of fire on them**. Then Nebuchadnezzar said, "Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants! They trusted (**Aramaic word - only time ever used - "Rehas" or "Rachats" - to lave the whole or part of a things or bathe self, wash, or trust 1:01**) in him and defied the king's command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God."

Daniel 3:24-28 (NIV)

If you cling to your life, you will lose it; but if you give up your life for me, you will find it. Matthew 10:39 (NLT)