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PRAYER

Lord Jesus, thank you for your Holy Spirit and your word, which help us make sense of the world that we live in. Help us to see you, your heart, and your glory in everything that we observe and do. In Jesus' name, Amen.

WARM UP

(OPTIONAL)

If you were to have four words on your tombstone at the end of your life, what would those four words be?

NOTES

WORD

¹³ Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought. So they brought these men before the king.

¹⁴ Nebuchadnezzar answered and said to them, "Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the golden image that I have set up?" ¹⁵ Now if you are ready when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, to fall down and worship the image that I have made, well and good. But if you do not worship, you shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace. And who is the god who will deliver you out of my hands?"

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."

[Daniel 3:13-18](#)

²⁴ Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up in haste. He declared to his counselors, "Did we not cast three men bound into the fire?" They answered and said to the king, "True, O king." ²⁵ He answered and said, "But I see four men unbound, walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods."

²⁶ Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the door of the burning fiery furnace; he declared, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out, and come here!" Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out from the fire. ²⁷ And the satraps, the prefects, the governors, and the king's counselors gathered together and saw that the fire had not had any power over the bodies of those men. The hair of their heads was not singed, their cloaks were not harmed, and no smell of fire had come upon them. ²⁸ Nebuchadnezzar answered and said, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants, who trusted in him, and set aside the king's command, and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God.

[Daniel 3:24-28](#)

When challenged to worship and bow down to another god of the king, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego would not cower. They were punished for their disobedience, only to have God rescue them amidst their punishment.

Will we bow down at the altar of our modern gods of money, career, family, and ambition, or will we surrender to the one true God who promises us deliverance, provision, and protection? Resilient disciples develop their faith by the grace of God to be able to withstand the onslaught of the enemy's attempts to have us bow at the altar of lesser gods. Jesus Christ is our only steadfast hope.

GUIDE QUESTIONS

(NUMBERED ACCORDING TO LEVEL OF DEPTH AND READINESS TO SHARE)

1. On a scale from 1 to 10, how would you rate your ability to stand for what you believe in under pressure? Why do you rate yourself this way?
2. Think of someone you know that holds steadfast to their values and does not compromise. Why do you think they don't compromise?
3. What are two non-negotiable values that you hold steadfast to and will not compromise? (e.g. integrity, compassion, honesty).
4. Have you ever been tempted to compromise in your work, friendships, or around family? How did you respond and why might this have been your response?
5. What safeguards do you have in place to ensure there is no opportunity to compromise your stand on your convictions?

PRAYER LIST

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