



**Series:** Unsung Heroes

**Sermon:** Part 4: Uncompromising Faith: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego

**Date:** Sunday, July 28th, 2024

An \_\_\_\_\_: something that we worship and give our extreme devotion and time to, even to the point where we make sacrifices for it

*“You must not have any other god but Me. You must not make for yourself an idol of any kind or an image of anything in the Heavens or on the Earth or in the sea. You must not bow down to them or worship them...” (Exodus 20:3-5)*

Nebuchadnezzar would later change the names of Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah to Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.

*Scripture referenced in sermon message: Daniel 2:46-49, Daniel 3:1-7*

### **Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego Teach Us That:**

**1. When believers \_\_\_\_\_ up for what they believe in, they will be criticized by those in the culture**

*Scripture referenced in sermon message: Daniel 3:8-12*

**2. Believers will be challenged to \_\_\_\_\_ the gods of this world**

*Scripture referenced in sermon message: Daniel 3:13-15*

God always came first and when they were pressured to compromise their faith and bow down to whatever everyone else was doing, they said no.

**3. Believers must stand \_\_\_\_\_ in their faith even when everything is standing against them**

*Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, “King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and He will deliver us from Your Majesty’s hand. But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.” (Daniel 3:16-18)*

Do we have an “even if” faith or an “as long as” faith?

*“For me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.” (Philippians 1:21)*

**4. Believers know that even in \_\_\_\_\_, the Lord is with them**

*Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and his attitude toward them changed. He ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual and commanded some of the strongest soldiers in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace. So these men, wearing their robes,*



trousers, turbans and other clothes, were bound and thrown into the blazing furnace. The king's command was so urgent and the furnace so hot that the flames of the fire killed the soldiers who took up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and these three men, firmly tied, fell into the blazing furnace. 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, Your Majesty." 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 3:19-25)

**a. Suffering is inevitable because we live in a \_\_\_\_\_ world**

**b. God can use the suffering we face to make us more like \_\_\_\_\_, if we allow Him to**

*In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith - of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire - may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. (1 Peter 1:6-7)*

**c. God promises to be \_\_\_\_\_ us in our suffering**

*"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are Mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior..." (Isaiah 43:1-3)*

**5. When believers stand firm in their faith, it can \_\_\_\_\_ those who are lost to the One true God who loves them and wants to save them**

*Scripture referenced in sermon message: Daniel 3:26-30*

**Bottom Line:** *God doesn't just want to be one of many but the One who has priority over all else.*

**Questions to reflect on this week or with others:**

1. *In what ways have you faced opposition or been criticized for standing up for your faith?*
2. *In what ways have you been tempted to bow down to what everyone else is bowing down to?*
3. *When you face tough times, would you say you have an "even if" faith" or an "as long as" faith?*
4. *When you face tough times is your perspective: that God is with you or that God is against you?*
5. *When you stand firm in your faith, how have you seen that encourage those around you to think about God?*

*Songs used in service: Give Me Faith (Elevation Worship), How Deep The Father's Love For Us (Stuart Townend), Jesus Paid It All (The Worship Initiative), Another In The Fire (Chris Davenport & Joel Houston), Same God (Elevation Worship)*

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**Any prayer requests?**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**What can we be praying for you about?**