

DUTIFUL, DARING AND DECISIVE DAD'S Daniel 3:1-12

Intro: The three Hebrew Children who are spoken of here in Daniel are men of duty, dedication, and daring. In verse twelve, it says: "These men." Yes, these are men who put duty to God ahead of even their own safety.

These men are told to bow down to the golden image or burn up in the fiery furnace. What would they do? What would their reaction be to the king's order?

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were dedicated to Jehovah. When it came time to take a stand, they did not bite their tongues. They said in one accord: "...we are not careful to answer thee in this matter. If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up." (16b-18)

We all remember the song "Dare To Be a Daniel." What words of encouragement they give to us. Not only do we need to dare to be a Daniel, we need to dare to be as strong as the three Hebrew men who stood up for Jehovah God.

I. Vss.12-15, THEY WERE DEDICATED

A. They would not bow to the image. They would not placate the king, nor his world. These men were different from others in the heathen world in which they lived.

1. These men were the few and the strong. They went against the crowd.

a. It does not upset folks much when people cheat, swear, and swindle. But when someone stands for God and refuses to bow down to the ways of the world in dress and attitude, the world gets upset.

b. The Christian is to be different. Remember what it says in 2 Corinthians 5:17: "Therefore if any man be in Christ he is a new creature..."

2. With everyone else bowing to the image, the three Hebrews stood out like a sore thumb. We need to be like these men; we need to be willing to stand out in a crowd, to walk away when the dirty jokes and stories start, to be willing to go against the crowd and swim upstream. Even a dead fish can float with the current and go with the flow. To swim upstream, you have to be strong and dedicated.

a. Don't bow down to the world. Don't bow to pressure. Our children and grandchildren are looking to us for leadership and guidance.

b. The accusers said to the king of the three Hebrew children: "These men O, king have not regarded thee: they serve not thy god's, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up." The Hebrew's could not serve Jehovah and the golden image. Their allegiance was to the true and living God, the one who created the universe.

c. If I compromise, if you compromise, then the Gospel will be hid and lost souls will not have the benefit of hearing the Gospel (2 Cor. 4:3-7).

d. I want to give the challenge of Joshua to each of you today: "Chose you this day whom ye will whom ye will serve." I hope your answer will be that which Joshua gave to the challenge: "as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

B. Vs. 13, The king was upset with the Hebrews because they would not get in line with the others and follow his false system.

1. The scientific world throws a fit when we do not bow down to its evolutionary theory and its climate change lies. Friend, don't bow to the false god of evolution.

2. Threats are a part of the strategy of the world system. Warren Wiersbe says: "True faith isn't frightened by threats, impressed by crowds, or swayed by superstitious ceremonies. True faith obeys the Lord and trusts Him to work out the consequences"(Vol. 3, 264).

C. Vs. 14, Note the words of the king: "Is it true?" "How is it that anyone would dare not worship my false image." Liberals and false teachers cannot not understand why folks will not fall for their lies! The scripture says: "Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools" (Romans 1:22). Some even become reprobates (Romans 1:21-28). There is not a man whom I know that wants to be the cause of his children denying the faith and going the way of the world. Dear Dad, lead your home in the right way. Teach the Word, and point them to Jesus!

D. Vs. 15, The test has come. They were to be immediately thrown into the fiery furnace if they did not bow at the sound of the world's music. It was bow or burn. It was submit to the evil one or suffer the consequences. The king mockingly says: "Who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?"

1. The world does not know our God; and when we stand up, He is revealed to those around us. Matthew 5:15-16: "Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth

light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify my Father which is in heaven.”

2. We are in the shape that we are in today because we have so few men like Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. Would you dare to be like these men?

II. Vs, 16, THEY WERE DARING

A. These were daring men. They did not even have to think twice about what they were going to do. They did not need a huddle; they did not need a conference. Their hearts and minds had been made up for a long time; they would stand up for Jehovah God.

1. Make up your mind now to do right in life.

2. We need to be strong and courageous in the world that we live in. We need to heed the word of God to Joshua: “Be strong and of a good courage...” (Joshua 1:9).

B. 2 Thessalonians 2:15 says: “Therefore, brethren, stand fast [to keep one’s standing, persist, persevere], and hold the traditions [teachings] which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.” A.W. Tozer wrote: “The Christian is always more at home with blessing than he is opposing.” He “desires to live at peace with all men. In spite of his sincere longing for peace, however there will be times when dare not allow himself to enjoy it. There are times when it is a sin to be at peace. There are circumstances when there is nothing to do but to stand up and vigorously oppose. To wink at iniquity for the sake of peace is not a proof of superior spirituality; it is rather a sign of a reprehensible timidity which does not oppose sin for fear of consequences. For it will cost us heavily to stand for the right when the wrong is in the majority, which is 100 percent of the time.”

1. There are times when God places us in the midst of conflict, whether at home or elsewhere, to speak and live as His representative for truth.

2. May God grant to every man here today boldness to stand for God (Acts 4:29).

III. Vss. 17-18, THEY WERE DEVOTED

A. Vs. 17, Their devotion was to God, not man. They were not afraid to take a stand for right. How about you?

1. They made it plain that they loved and served Jehovah. They called Him, “Our God.” They said: “whom we serve.”

2. They had confidence in God. He “is able to deliver us.”

3. They were saying: If it is God's will, He is able to do "exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think."

B. Vs. 18, We can certainly learn from the devotion of these men. They wanted the king to know that if God did not deliver them, "that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image."

1. They were going to trust God come what may.

2. Many of our generation are willing to serve God as long as He does things they want done and gives them what they want. Can you say with Job: "Though he slay me, yet will I trust him"? (13:15)

3. Many are angry with God because they think that He has not come through for them, hasn't answered their prayer:

a. He did not save their marriage.

b. He did not heal their loved one.

c. He did not get them a job.

d. He did not save their children.

4. Don't be angry with God. Romans 8:28 is still in the book, and you can believe it. Trust God daily through the valleys, as well as, on the mountain top.

Conclusion: In verse 25-27, we see God's deliverance. We see Jesus in the fire with them. Jesus will go with you through your fiery furnace experience.

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