



Series: Daniel, Living for God in a Pagan World

Passage: Daniel 2:46 - 3:30

Title: Authentic Faith Versus Superficial Faith

Speaker: Pastor JC Cooper 7/21/2024

Discussion Starter – When we reflect on the lives of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego as described from chapter 1 until now, what progression do we see in their lives that points to a solid relationship with Jesus and how does their authentic faith prepare them to face the fiery trials that come upon them?

Read Daniel 2:46-3:30

- 1) The king is joyful and thankful to God for revealing this troubling dream to him through Daniel. At first glance it looks like King Nebuchadnezzar has humbled himself before God. What is the problem with his faith as compared to the faith we see demonstrated by Daniel?
- 2) What are some of the reasons you think that motivated and led king Nebuchadnezzar to make such a large golden image of himself? How should he have properly reflected on the revelation of his dream by God through Daniel?
- 3) How can we also be like Nebuchadnezzar when God has revealed something to us from His word?
- 4) Why do you think King Nebuchadnezzar uses music to invoke people to worship him? What does this indicate about the power of music and how it can affect our behaviors?
- 5) What additional tactics does King Nebuchadnezzar use to make people worship him? How is this quite opposite to the Gospel of Jesus Christ?
- 6) In what way is King Nebuchadnezzar a foreshadow of what we will see happen by the Anti-Christ in Revelation 13:15-18? Discuss insights gained from this passage.
 - a) What are some of the things that influence us in building our own kingdom instead of building God's Kingdom? Read Matthew 6:33. Describe how you think this verse applies to your life?
- 7) It sounds like king Nebuchadnezzar is giving Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego a chance to worship the golden statue the next time the music is played. How do they respond to king Nebuchadnezzar's challenge and what can we learn from the stand that they take in this circumstance that they are in?
- 8) What are the five points of authentic faith in Jesus as LORD demonstrated for us by Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego in verses 3:16-18? Which of these points of authentic faith do you find to be the most difficult for you to follow at certain times?
 - b) What are some opportunities we have in our day to day lives where we might be able to take a stronger stand for our faith? What would that look like in your life, and how might that lead into sharing the gospel message to those who observe and question your stand of faith?
- 9) Authentic faith does not make us immune to fiery trials. What does authentic faith save you from?
- 10) Who is the fourth man that Nebuchadnezzar sees in the fiery furnace. Read Isaiah 41:10-13. What are some of the things it does say, and what are some of the things it does not say, that are important for us to remember as we are going through various trials in our lives
- 11) What four points in the sermon were given that identify that Nebuchadnezzar only had superficial faith? How can we use these examples to examine ourselves to see if we may be demonstrating superficial faith instead of authentic faith in our walk with Jesus?