

# SUN CITY SERMON NOTES

29.09.19



THEY CAN TAKE YOUR NAME, BUT THEY CAN'T TAKE YOUR DESTINY

Key text: Daniel 3:1-30

We need awareness of things to come; we need to be prepared for it, with convictions.

Context: Israel besieged/Babylon encroached upon beliefs and stolen the sacred things. They nabbed the best of the Jewish boys. Daniel 1:8 – Daniel himself had resolved in his heart / he was convicted – not to defile himself and in doing so walked no dishonour to God. Godly conviction moves us to do right and holds us back from doing wrong.

We must consolidate what we stand on. Just as Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego did – in high office, in a foreign land serving (not blaming) a king with a very big opinion of himself and temper to match; a man who burned with anger, built a furnace to build an image of himself. He commands everyone to bow down to his image with the threat of jobs, houses and lives burned for whoever did not bow down.

If anything (anyone, any thing (substance, emotion, etc)) asks us to bow down, we say 'No' – we will not bow down to anything but God. Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego served the king until the line was crossed. This is because there were things they knew from the Law.

- Exodus 20:3-6 ...'you shall have no other gods before Me' Ten commandments; Jesus fulfilled.
- Romans 7:7 ... we could not have known what sin is apart from the law
- Galatians 3:24 ... the law was our tutor, our guardian – to bring us to Christ. The ten commandments reveal what is right and what is wrong. Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego knew what was right and know when to stand because they knew what to stand for

Stimulating  
Wholesome Thinking

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1. Shadrach, Meshach & Abed-Nego; three **stood** - together
2. Godly conviction moves us to do right and holds us back from doing wrong.
3. They cannot take your destiny when you have resolved to know and stay with God's truths.

- Acts 5:29 ... we must obey God not man – we obey to the point where it does not contravene the Word of God – we must then obey God. Eph 6:1.
- 1 Peter 2:12-17 ... live lives in such a way ... we cannot bow down to what isn't true. The Word must have final say.

Daniel 3. This king built a huge image of himself – what else would someone with a big opinion of themselves and a burn with rage temper do but build a furnace to burn anyone who doesn't agree with him or bow down to him. He set something for the eye gate – a giant image and all the people gather; he set something for the ear gate having gathered all the instruments – sight and sound show – electric / overwhelming pressure for the multitude and when everyone else bowed down, Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego stood. The Word in them, the will of God therefore plain to them – three cord strand stood.

...2 Timothy 3:12: 'Anyone who wants to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted'; it is impossible this can't happen. These young men didn't balk at God's command, didn't bow to the wrong command of a man and therefore didn't burn. Every fibre of their flesh would have been pulling them to bow down – these young men are the same as you and me, but for their convictions.

Daniel 3:13-14 The king gave them a second chance to deny, to comply. He appealed to them; he didn't want to lose these boys, but hysteria had not convinced them – conviction applies truth – truth applied is higher realm than being convinced.

Verses 16-18 The boys did not need to defend themselves or answer him – such was their strength of conviction but they did want the king to know that God was able to deliver them out of his hands and 'even if' He didn't (Your Majesty) – 'we will not serve your gods or your image'.

And so, the king arranges the strongest soldiers to tie up three young men – they can tie you up, but they can't make you lie or comply. Nebuchadnezzar orders the furnace to be heated 7x hotter and for Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego to be thrown in. He then 'sees' four men – walking around – not burned, not coming out (Acts 16).

Nebuchadnezzar could see – 'God' – he could see that one that did deliver the young men from his hand – he could see the Higher authority – it drew worship from Him 'No other God ...'

**See the heart of the Father here – the heart going after Nebuchadnezzar – after all he had done; that same heart that goes after all humanity, that not one be lost.**

The only thing that was burned were the things use to bind the young men. Isaiah 43; when you walk through the flames you will not be burned for I Am with you...

Why do good people go through bad things? That can't always be answered. What we do know is that those who have gone through the furnace keeping their trust in God, holding to their convictions, come out shining the image of God; no longer shackled or hobbled. Character is forged as the Holy Spirit does His refining work. There is no singe, no scorch ... no smell of ever having gone through; not burned!

Things may not always go right but God works right through it, eternally – you can take that to the furnace.

Shadrach was (Hebrew) Hananiah: 'The Lord has favoured'

Meshach was (Hebrew) Mishael: 'Who is like God'

Abed-Nego was (Hebrew) Azariah: 'The Lord has helped'

They can take your name; they can call you names but they cannot take your destiny when you have resolved to know and stay with God's truths.