

*O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. <sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> 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." Dan. 3:16-18*

Two critical Insights ...

A Soon Forgotten \_\_\_\_\_  
Cp. Daniel 2:46-47; 2:31-35; Mt. 13:3, 10-19

An Edict of \_\_\_\_\_  
Cp. Daniel 3:4; Genesis 11:1-9

### An Edict, A Refusal to Bow, and a Furnace ... Dan 3

How do we exercise the Courage necessary to stand against the Forces of Evil?

I. Courage's Declaration ... There is but \_\_\_\_\_  
*the God whom we serve ...* – vs. 16 (Cp. Deut. 6:4-9; Jn. 14:6)

II. Courage's Conviction ...  
*the God whom we serve is able to save us. He will rescue us from your power, Your Majesty. But even if he doesn't, we want to make it clear to you, Your Majesty, that we will never serve your gods or worship the gold statue you have set up.,* – vs. 16-18

I \_\_\_\_\_ That God Can (cp. Eph. 3:20)

I \_\_\_\_\_ That He Will (Cp. 1 Sam 14:1-14; Ps. 27:13)

But I will \_\_\_\_\_ Him If He Doesn't

Courage believes not only that God is \_\_\_\_\_  
than the opposition but also \_\_\_\_\_ than  
all alternatives

### So What?

1. Don't let Truth \_\_\_\_\_ before you act upon it.
2. Don't let the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of Exile keep you from the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ found in our Savior.

1. What is something you've done that you think no one else in your group has ever done?
2. Pastor David talked about taking a stand for God this weekend. Can you think of any Christians you've known who were especially good at taking a stand? How did people respond to them? Why do you think they are good at taking a stand?
3. Read Deuteronomy 6:1-9; 6:24-25; and Matthew 5:48. According to these verses, what does God require of us? How close to His requirement do we have to come? If we are 80% there, is that good enough? Why or why not?
4. Reflecting back upon the story of Abraham and his willingness to offer his son as a sacrifice, read Hebrews 11:17-19. How large was Abraham's faith in God? Why would God ever ask him to make such a sacrifice? Why would God ask Abraham to do such a huge and difficult task? What did God see in Abraham before the test that Abraham may have never known about himself had the test not been given? As you examine your own life, what does God see in you?
5. As you think about the 3 friends of Daniel, how courageous were they?
  - a. How much faith does it take to Believe that God is able to do a difficult task?
  - b. How much courage does it take to Expect that God will do a difficult task? Here, expecting Him to do something that is clearly not against His revealed Word.
  - c. How much courage does it take to Trust God when He doesn't do what we have believed Him for and expected Him to do?
  - d. Why does it take more faith to trust God when He doesn't act than to believe that He can act?

### Appointment with God – Prayer Focus

The disciples confessed ... "I believe; help my unbelief." Mark 9:24  
Unbelief cripples us individually and as a Church (I'm speaking about THE Church, not just individual churches). Pray against UNBELIEF!  
Ask the Lord to shine His light on us, to convict us, break us, bring us to the place of repentance, and of deeper relationship with Him.

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Two critical Insights ...

A Soon Forgotten **Truth**

Cp. Daniel 2:46-47; 2:31-35; Mt. 13:3, 10-19

An Edict of **Global Proportions**

Cp. Daniel 3:4; Genesis 11:1-9

### An Edict, A Refusal to Bow, and a Furnace ... Dan 3

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I **Believe** That God Can (cp. Eph. 3:20)

I **Expect** That He Will (Cp. 1 Samuel 14:1-14; Ps. 27:13)

But I will **Trust** Him If He Doesn't (vs. 29-45)

Courage believes not only that God is **BIGGER** than the opposition but also **BETTER** than all alternatives

### So What?

1. Don't let Truth **Escape You** before you act upon it.
2. Don't let the **Concerns** and **Threats** of Exile keep you from the **Hope** and **Promises** found in our Savior.

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