

# Through The Fire

Dan 3:1-30

## 1. Intro

1. How do we handle the difficult times that surround us?
2. Thesis
  1. Are we willing to pay the price for God's sake?
3. Recount the dream in Chp 2.
  1. Nebuchadnezzar thought of himself as somebody, especially after the interpretation of his dream by Daniel. (pride 2:32-33)
  2. As a result he built this statue

## 2. The Problem

1. Everyone was to bow down before the king. (5-6)
  1. Idolatry in these men's eyes (12) (Ex 20:4-5)
  2. Even when these men were trained to function in this new culture, they never took their eyes from God.
2. We face decisions every day. Little to big.
  1. Would like others to make decisions for us.
3. When we have to make decisions do we:
  1. Put them in a balance scale?
    1. How do we stay out of the fire?
      1. God won't mind if we just do this one time.
      2. We will go through this even if it cost us.

## 3. Paying the Price

1. Problems can't be solved if we ignore them.
  1. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednigo's problem was not going to go away by ignoring it (14)
    1. Why do some problems stay with us.
2. We want deliverance without disturbance
  1. Deliver us from this fire without us having to commit to you.
3. We want success without sacrifice
  1. You gave us positions of authority, why this testing?
    1. Out testing will refine us.
4. We need to shift our priorities.
  1. Shadrach, Meshach and Abendigo's eyes never came off of their priority. **To serve God**
  2. Our culture is one of consumerism; which focuses in on our comfort and well being (supposedly). (Advertising campaigns)
    1. We will take care of your needs.
    2. We will keep you comfortable.

## 4. Price Paid

1. Never get comfortable

1. Daniel and these men lived in a different culture, but never conformed to it.
2. Never allow for plan B. (in commitment)
  1. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednigo in the fire. Nothing could be done to them, they had no plan B (16-18)
  2. Don't have on a maintenance mind set. (Don't settle for less than best)
    1. Maintenance mind set is the easy way out.
      1. I am quite satisfied where I am.
  3. We were never promised to be spared from the fire.
  4. But God will be there to take us through the fire.

## 5. Conclusion

1. We are to seek Him
  1. We should seek righteousness, not happiness (Matt 6:33)
2. Look to Christ is our problem solver (Matt 11:28-30)
  1. Just as Shadrach, Meshach and Abednigo did.
3. We may have to go through the fire
  1. That fire will purify us to serve Him in a greater way.
  2. Be committed