



## Sermon Notes and Study Questions

### Take a Stand

<sup>13</sup> Furious with rage, Nebuchadnezzar summoned Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. So these men were brought before the king, <sup>14</sup> and Nebuchadnezzar said to them, “Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the image of gold I have set up? <sup>15</sup> Now when you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music, if you are ready to fall down and worship the image I made, very good. But if you do not worship it, you will be thrown immediately into a blazing furnace. Then what god will be able to rescue you from my hand?”

<sup>16</sup> Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, “King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. <sup>17</sup> If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty’s hand. <sup>18</sup> But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.”

<sup>19</sup> Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and his attitude toward them changed. He ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual <sup>20</sup> and commanded some of the strongest soldiers in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace. <sup>21</sup> So these men, wearing their robes, trousers, turbans and other clothes, were bound and thrown into the blazing furnace. <sup>22</sup> The king’s command was so urgent and the furnace so hot that the flames of the fire killed the soldiers who took up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego,

<sup>23</sup> and these three men, firmly tied, fell into the blazing furnace.

<sup>24</sup> Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, “Weren’t there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?”

They replied, “Certainly, Your Majesty.”

<sup>25</sup> He said, “Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods.”

<sup>26</sup> Nebuchadnezzar then approached the opening of the blazing furnace and shouted, “Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!”

So Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the fire, <sup>27</sup> and the satraps, prefects, governors and royal advisers crowded around them. They saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies, nor was a hair of their heads singed; their robes were not scorched, and there was no smell of fire on them.

<sup>28</sup> Then Nebuchadnezzar said, “Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants! They trusted in him and defied the king’s command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God. <sup>29</sup> Therefore I decree that the people of any nation or language who say anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego be cut into pieces and their houses be turned into piles of rubble, for no other god can save in this way.”

<sup>30</sup> Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the province of Babylon.

Daniel 3:13-30

**Notes:**

**Introduction: Decisive Moments**

**Taking a Stand for God: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego**

The Backstory

Taking a Stand: The Road Less Traveled

Resume Virtues vs. Eulogy Virtues

My Favorite Line

# Learning through Failure

## God will Stand-up for Us

### Conclusion

### Connecting Questions

1. Share about a decisive moment in history that stands out to you. Why did this particular event matter to you?
2. What is one of the decisive moments in your life that has shaped everything else?

### Discussion Questions:

1. A non-negotiable for Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego was worshipping an idol. What are some of the basic non-negotiables for followers of Christ? Why? What makes these non-negotiables?
2. What do you think is the likelihood likely that Christians will find that we have to take a stand against popular opinion in order to remain faithful to God? How can we prepare ourselves to do this in a way that gives faithful witness to Jesus?
3. What would be some examples of some resume virtues versus some eulogy virtues?
4. What are the virtue and characteristics people would name in your eulogy?
5. In the message, it was claimed that we walk by faith but it is not a blind faith. How would you explain to a non-Christian the difference between Christian faith and blind faith?

6. What is your reaction to the following statement: “We never have to struggle to discern the commands of God. When it comes to commands, we don’t have to shut our eyes to pray, it’s time to open our eyes and look to obey.”
7. What do you think are the best lessons you have learned through failure?
8. What is the difference between failing and being a failure? Why is it impossible for Christians to be failures?
9. How is God speaking to you through this sermon series? Is there any sense of clarity of call on how to live out of God’s priorities for your life?

## Going Deeper into Scripture

Read Matthew 25:14-30

A talent was equivalent to twenty years’ wages for a common worker. The money left to these three servants was incredibly large. The servants had been vested with great wealth by the master to advance his estate while away. In the same way, Jesus has left us with great talents to advance the Kingdom of God. The servants were given different amounts of talents, indicating that some people have been vested with greater talents than other in advancing God’s kingdom (not everyone can be a Billy Graham or Mother Teresa and God does not expect us to be).

### **1. How does comparing our talents with others get in the way of advancing God’s kingdom?**

While some disciples have greater talents than others, the focus of the story is on what they did with the talents they had. The servants were judged based on what they did with what they had. For the servants who used their talents to advance their master’s estate, they were each rewarded with the same approval, “Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!” We demonstrate that we are ready for Christ to return by using the talents God gives us to build His Kingdom.

### **2. Why was the third servant rebuked? What were the consequences of his actions?**

### **3. What are possible implications of the punishment of the third servant for disciples of Jesus?**

### **4. How does this parable help you understand how to be prepared for Jesus’ second coming?**