

January 15, 2013

EXTREME FAITH

**Shadrach,
Meshach and
Abednego**

Faith under fire!
willing to be a
sacrifice
GOD PROVIDES!



SHADRACH, MESHACH AND ABEDNEGO

Four Men in the Furnace

King Nebuchadnezzar built a gold statue, ninety feet high and nine feet thick. He set it up on the Dura plain in the province of Babylon. He then ordered all the important leaders in the province, everybody who was anybody, to the dedication ceremony of the statue. They all came for the dedication, all the important people, and took their places before the statue that Nebuchadnezzar had erected. A herald then proclaimed in a loud voice: "Attention, everyone! Every race, color, and creed, listen! When you hear the band strike up-- all the trumpets and trombones, the tubas and baritones, the drums and cymbals-- fall to your knees and worship the gold statue that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. Anyone who does not kneel and worship shall be thrown immediately into a roaring furnace." The band started to play, a huge band equipped with all the musical instruments of Babylon, and everyone-- every race, color, and creed-- fell to their knees and worshiped the

gold statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. Just then, some Babylonian fortunetellers stepped up and accused the Jews. They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, "Long live the king! You gave strict orders, O king, that when the big band started playing, everyone had to fall to their knees and worship the gold statue, and whoever did not go to their knees and worship it had to be pitched into a roaring furnace. Well, there are some Jews here-- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego-- whom you have placed in high positions in the province of Babylon. These men are ignoring you, O king. They don't respect your gods and they won't worship the gold statue you set up." Furious, King Nebuchadnezzar ordered Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to be brought in.

To read the rest of the story go to page 3

SHADRACH, MESHACH & ABEDNEGO



**Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego
Faithful to God even to the point
of Death! Knowing and believing
that God would provide for them!
Living as a Sacrifice!**

STEP BY STEP

**Give it up
Live as a
Sacrifice**

**Trust God With
The Outcome!**

**Believe In Him
and
Him Alone!**

Follow these steps

Give it up Live as a sacrifice...Let go of the things that you are holding on to like your life. **Romans 12:1**

Trust God With The Outcome...Live in His wisdom and in belief that He always has your back. **Proverbs 3:5-6**

Believe in Him Alone...Look to God alone for all things, ditch the false idols. **Isaiah 41:10**

YOUR LIFE

Take a moment to think about the concept of extreme sacrifice. Use these questions to help you apply what you've just heard to your life.

☉ How did Shadrach, Messiah & Abednego respond to the Kings orders to worship a false God?

☉ Who Did Shadrach, Messiah & Abednego place all their trust in?

☉ What was the result for the people of Israel who were in captivity in Babylon because of Shadrach, Messiah & Abednego sacrifice of loyalty to God?

☉ What in your life is calling you to worship it, calling you to pay attention to it rather than God?

☉ How will you stand up to it and sacrifice whatever you need to sacrifice so that you might honor God?

☉ Trusting in God to come through can be a challenge. What do you need to trust to God, and then allow Him to come through for you, so you might be more bold about God?

☉ Take some time this week, ask "Do you know the God Shadrach, Messiah & Abednego know? Do you believe as they believe to the point that you know He will rescue you and never fail you?"

BOLD SACRIFICE = BOLD COURAGE

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered King Nebuchadnezzar, "Your threat means nothing to us. If you throw us in the fire, the God we serve can rescue us from your roaring furnace and anything else you might cook up, O king. But even if he doesn't, it wouldn't make a bit of difference, O king. We still wouldn't serve your gods or worship the gold statue you set up." They were ready to face death, for the honor of God! That's bold sacrifice, which gave them bold courage. God's name was lifted up high that day and the kingdom was changed. What about you do you have it in you? Bold Sacrifice that will lead to Bold Courage, who knows you could change a friend's life, you could change your family, your school, or culture itself...

Change the way you think

Laying it Down

Sacrifice...

It's when you lay it down and accept it, and you keep going. You don't have to voluntarily give it up. But when you do let it go, you learn how to live as a whole person even without the thing you've laid down, because it was never really a part of you!

The Story of Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego from Daniel chapter 3 cont.

When the men were brought in, Nebuchadnezzar asked, "Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you don't respect my gods and refuse to worship the gold statue that I have set up? I'm giving you a second chance-- but from now on, when the big band strikes up you must go to your knees and worship the statue I have made. If you don't worship it, you will be pitched into a roaring furnace, no questions asked. Who is the god who can rescue you from my power?"

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered King Nebuchadnezzar, "Your threat means nothing to us. If you throw us in the fire, the God we serve can rescue us from your roaring furnace and anything else you might cook up, O king. But even if he doesn't, it wouldn't make a bit of difference, O king. We still wouldn't serve your gods or worship the gold statue you set up."

Nebuchadnezzar, his face purple with anger, cut off Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. He ordered the furnace fired up seven times hotter than usual. He ordered some strong men from the army to tie them up, hands and feet, and throw them into the roaring furnace. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, bound hand and foot, fully dressed from head to toe, were pitched into the roaring fire. Because the king was in such a hurry and the furnace was so hot, flames from the furnace killed the men who carried Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to it, while the fire raged around Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Suddenly King Nebuchadnezzar jumped up in alarm and said, "Didn't we throw three men, bound hand and

foot, into the fire?"

"That's right, O king,"

they said. But look!" he

said. "I see four men, walking

around freely in the fire, completely

unharméd! And the fourth man looks like a son of the gods!"

Nebuchadnezzar went to the door of the roaring furnace and called in,

"Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the High God, come out here!" Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego walked out of the fire. All the

important people, the government leaders and king's counselors, gathered

around to examine them and discovered that the fire hadn't so much as

touched the three men-- not a hair singed, not a scorch mark on their

clothes, not even the smell of fire on them! Nebuchadnezzar said, "Blessed

be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego! He sent his angel and

rescued his servants who trusted in him! They ignored the king's orders and

laid their bodies on the line rather than serve or worship any god but their

own. " Therefore I issue this decree: Anyone anywhere, of any race, color, or

creed, who says anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and

Abednego will be ripped to pieces, limb from limb, and their houses torn

down. There has never been a god who can pull off a rescue like this. " Then

the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the province of

Babylon.

What if...

Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego did not trust God no matter what..

King Nebuchadnezzar would not have known the power of God

and the captivities of Babylon would not have been free to worship

God!

MODERN EXTREMES

Kilon G. story of Sacrifice Bangladesh 1996

"We Will Cut Off Your Feet!"

The angry crowd yelled after the lone bicyclist, "If we see you again, we will cut off your feet. Then see if you can ride your bike!" This was not the first time Milon G. had been threatened by angry crowds of Muslims. But such threats have not quenched his zeal to take the truth of God's Word to his countrymen.

"I ride to the villages on my bicycle and carry Christian literature. In the rains, I hold an umbrella in one hand and steer with the other. I often fall down and get muddy and scratched. At night, I hold a flashlight. I sing from the Psalms when I ride. The Christians I meet do not have an extra blanket for me, so I try to make it back home to sleep." Milon was a teenager when a friend gave him some gospel booklets.

"I hid them in a steel trunk in my bedroom. At night I would get my key, open the trunk, and read with a kerosene lamp. Having studied in a Muslim fundamental school for twelve years, I had known about Jesus as mentioned in the Koran, but I didn't know Him as Savior, I accepted Jesus in 1992 and was baptized secretly 400 kilometers from my home." Ever since then, Milon has been persecuted by Muslims. "I sold clothing in the local market and began placing some Christian books in my shop for other Christians. When Muslim men learned of this, they would walk into my shop and just take shirts, pants, and socks from the shelf without paying. If I asked for money they threatened to beat me. Anytime someone is interested in the booklets, I give them one."

Milon says, "We are going through many problems, but still we have Jesus Christ. We have peace through Him, and we have the hope that when we die we will go to heaven."

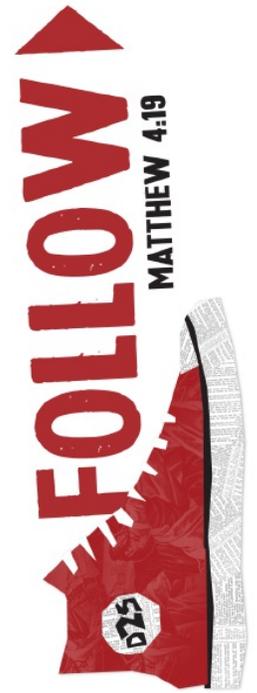
We are confident of all this because of our great trust in God through Christ. It is not that we think we can do anything of lasting value by ourselves. Our only power and success come from God. He is the one who has enabled us to represent his new covenant.

Paul the Apostle
Martyred in Rome, 65 AD
(2 CORINTHIANS 3:4-6 NLT)

Don't forget
Dare2 Share
Feb.1-3

If you want to go. Make sure that you let Chris know!

We are going to have so much fun and be challenged in ways that we have never been challenged before!
Don't Miss out!



FEB. 1-3
Denver, CO

REVIEW

Eh 6:10
Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power.

What pulls us away from depending on God?

Too busy forget to call on God

Thinking that God can't be bothered

caught up in other things

What pulls us closer to God and causes us to depend on Him?

Praying and talking to God

Going to Church or Youth Group

Making it a point to think and always depend on Him

What do we gain when God is our Power source and He is all we depend upon

We Gain:

Peace

Power

Love

Joy

Strength to go through hard times

Any and all of His Promises!



Living life with
Extreme faith
and
Extreme vision

**EXTREME FAITH
MAGAZINE**

A product of XGT and CCAspen

