

THREE FRIENDS SAVED FROM THE FIRE!

Bible Reference: Daniel 3:24 - 3:30

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego are bound hand and foot and thrown into the fiery furnace. The furnace was so hot that the guards who threw them in were burned up. The three fell down into the furnace...

But suddenly, to the king's surprise, a miracle happens! He sees a fourth Man in the fire with them, protecting them. He sees all four of them walking around loose inside the fire. He calls to them, and they come out from the fire. They didn't even smell like smoke!

The king says that there is no God like the One whom these three serve. He even created a law that if anyone speaks anything bad against God, he will punish them.

All three of the friends are promoted to higher ranks than they were before.

Bible Reference: Daniel 6:1-16

Later, another king was appointed, named Darius, who also saw that Daniel was full of wisdom and that God was with him. This new king placed Daniel as one of the three highest rulers in the kingdom.

The other rulers of the kingdom became jealous of Daniel and tried to figure out a way to take him down. They checked to see if Daniel was doing anything wrong that they could accuse him of.

But because Daniel obeyed God, there was nothing that they could say he was doing wrong. These evil rulers decide that the only way they can get rid of Daniel is by tricking the king.

They bowed before the king and said that for thirty days, everyone should worship only King Darius. If they don't, they will be thrown into a pit of hungry lions. The king fell for the trap and made a new decree that was unchangeable.

Daniel hears about the law but still goes and prays to God. The evil rulers found him praying, and according to the new law, they took him and threw him into a pit full of hungry lions!

Then..... **Come back next time!**

LIFE APPLICATION

ACTS 5:29

THEN PETER AND THE APOSTLES REPLIED, WE MUST OBEY GOD RATHER THAN MEN.

Throughout history, God's people have often been tempted to do things the wrong way, following wrong things people say instead of what God says. The king acted like he was God and wanted everyone to worship him instead.

But the three friends knew that God is the only one worthy of worship. They were willing to die rather than disobey God. Even when given another chance, they still honored God. When we're in a similar situation and have to choose between what God says and what people want, we should be brave and obey God, even if it's hard.

We see that God responded to the faithfulness of the friends and also to the outlandish claim of the king that he was worthy to be worshipped as God. The end result was the friends were rescued in a miraculous way. God openly showed that He is the One and only True God. The king's heart was changed because of the faith of the three friends.

OBJECT LESSON

Stand out from the crowd.

Light all of the candles and explain how everyone was commanded to bow down to the statue.

Blow out the candles, but notice that three of them still stay lit
The king's command made many people bow down, but the three friends honored God. Their choice made them stand out. When we choose to obey God, it can make us stand out from others. That can be uncomfortable. But it is the right thing to do.

Because they didn't bow, God was able to use them as a light to the king. They were able to show him that he was wrong, and that God is the only true God.