Daily Daniel -day 10

So let us study.

13-15: 13  Then Nebuchadnezzar, in rage and fury, gave the command to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. So they brought these men before the king. 14  Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying to them, "*Is it* true, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, *that* you do not serve my gods or worship the gold image which I have set up? 15  Now if you are ready at the time you hear the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, *and* psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, and you fall down and worship the image which I have made, *good!* But if you do not worship, you shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. And who *is* the god who will deliver you from my hands?"

1: So after the Chaldeans ratted them out-Why was he so angry? Real faith does not boast about our faith nor does it hide in a closet. Real faith is just simply lived out. Because this king was a godless monarch with absolute worldly power he was freaked out that they did not worship him. In the very angry face of the king these men had to be a witness to their faith. That is the place that God says I will give you the words. Spurgeon said this about this section of scripture-“It is unnecessary that a man should profess to be what he is not; it is a sin of supererogation, a superfluity of naughtiness. If you cannot be true to Christ, if your coward heart is recreant to your Lord, do not profess to be his disciple, I beseech you. He that is married to the world, or flinthearted, had better return to his house, for he is of no service in this war." Nebuchadnezzar would not tolerate losing face on such an important occasion. His pride made him declare, "You shall have no other gods than me." Can you imagine the pressure on these three men of God? Everything in front of them - the king, the furnace, the music, their countrymen, their competitors - all of it conspired to convince them to compromise. Yet God was more real to them than any of those things. That is the key to keep God real as life itself before you. Then the great boast of pride and blasphemy of God-the king makes a huge mistake.

16-18: 16  Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. 17  If that *is the case,* our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver *us* from your hand, O king. 18  But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up."

1: They had no need to defend themselves. Their guilt in the matter was clear - they clearly would not bow down to this image. It is the evil one that tries to make us feel guilty for our faith. We are the ones that stand on the side of righteousness but the world tries to convince us we are bad and out of line. These men showed how comfortable they were with their relationship in God and I want to be like that –don’t you? They knew God is in control of everything and was able to save them from the fiery furnace and the hand of the king-as the slogan goes –it is all good when you are a Christian. To know God's power, they knew that they must do what is right even if God does not do what they expect or hope Him to do. They did not doubt God's ability but neither did they presume to know God's will. In this they agreed with Job: *Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him* ([Job 13:15](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.blueletterbible.org%2FBible.cfm%3Fb%3DJob%26c%3D13%26v%3D15%23s%3D449015&data=04%7C01%7C%7C09a4623026a345faf99408d8eebebc5b%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637521850251805015%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=4%2BKJRuRGwZHCfw%2FwVb35q6yvXpj8GX1c2r7MkwLT1Bg%3D&reserved=0)). They recognized that God's plan might be different than their desires. I have my own desires and dreams and I pray that God fulfills them. But if He doesn't, I can't turn my back on Him-period. Remember that early Christians were not thrown to the lions because they worshipped Jesus, but because they would *not* worship the emperor.  In our day, many do love Jesus and think highly of Him - yet they are far from God because they also love and worship the world, sin, and self. *Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.* ([1 John 2:15](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.blueletterbible.org%2FBible.cfm%3Fb%3D1Jo%26c%3D2%26v%3D15%23s%3D1161015&data=04%7C01%7C%7C09a4623026a345faf99408d8eebebc5b%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637521850251815025%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=clXw6RFG9RbvAF4VwZUQgrFP7hYGAXoUxJXgQhTAkQY%3D&reserved=0)) . It took great faith to take this kind of stand so the question comes up-how did they get to this place in faith.  Well first of all it started with the little things as tests-the eating of food that was not on their diet-it is in the small tests of temptation that we are strengthened, prepared for the big ones. If you want to grow in faith that can stand up to the world-then begin in the little areas of compromise. When you start having a disciplined approach to the little one then they will get bigger. In a time of testing like this it is easy to think of a thousand excuses that seem to justify compromise. They could have thought –well it is better for us to live to witness than to be dead. Well we are sending the wrong message of legalism if we don’t compromise a little. "*We will lose our jobs and our standard of living*." Often when God blesses us we make the blessing an idol and compromise God to keep what we have. They might have said, "*Everybody else is doing it*." "*It is only for once, and not for very long. Ten minutes, just for the king. It is stupid to throw our lives away for ten minutes.*" Ten minutes can change a life. "*This is more than can be expected of us; God will understand just this once.*" Oh compromise is so quiet, dark and we must stand strong to resist. I think we will stop right here and I sense the Holy Spirit speaking to me and He might be speaking to you about your faith in Him. Oh I am praying for the kind of faith that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego had here.