

Even If

(When Faith Requires Resistance)

Daryn Kinney

June 3, 2018

Questions for discussion and application

- Read Daniel 3:1-30. What is the “proclamation” given in the beginning of the story and why does it present a serious challenge to Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego?
- What do the 3 decide to do? What lines have they drawn? Does this teach you anything about the importance of “drawing lines” in your own life? What does it even mean to “draw lines”? Titus 2:11-14
- Describe the scene in Daniel 3:16-18. How does their “resistance” demonstrate tremendous courage and conviction?
- Does their stand encourage or inspire you personally? If so, in what ways?
- How is the phrase “*EVEN IF He doesn’t*” found in Daniel 3:18 an expression of faith? What else does it express?
- We might not have a fierce dictator telling us to bow to an image but where or to whom have we given our allegiance? (Is your political party in its proper place in your heart? Is your nation? Your possessions or position, family or desires, ministry dreams?)
- In what ways does our culture put pressure on us to put God in second place (maybe even in subtle ways)? Where might you find yourself pressed to keep your beliefs private / secondary?
- How does verse 25 “answer” the challenge brought by King Neb in verse 15? What does God’s presence in the fire tell you *about* God?
- How was / is Jesus’ ministry a lot like that of the 4th “person” in the furnace?

6th century BC – Babylon is THE world power - the majority of the people of Judah were taken into exile (captivity / deportation).

Daniel 3:1-12

1. Proclamation to Bow: “*Fall down and worship*” (Daniel 3:1-12)

Remember that tall structure built in Genesis 11?

Idolatry = created things that become ultimate things in our hearts / lives. Romans 1:21-22

Daniel 3:8-12 The “tattle-tale” astrologers

_____ THEY HAD DRAWN THEIR LINES. _____ have
YOU? _____

- **Titus 2:11-14**

2. Decision to Stand: “*Even if*” (Daniel 3:13-18)

Daniel 3:15 “...*what god will be able to rescue you from MY hand?*” This question gets to the heart of the story.

- EVEN IF He doesn't _____ (heal, give, tell, answer)...
What if God doesn't do for YOU what you want / think / desire?

3. Deliverance *in* (not from) the Fire: “*I see four men...unbound and unharmed*” (Daniel 3:19-27)

The 4th man entered the furnace. God entered our broken world – Jesus became a man, entered the fire to stand *with us*.

- “*I will be with you*” (Exodus 3:12; Matthew 28:20)
- A literal fulfillment of Isaiah 43:1-3

4. NEW Proclamation: “*No other God can save*” (Daniel 3:28-30)

Impressed but not convinced.

- **Colossians 1:15**