

May 6 2012

“Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego & The Fiery Furnace”

Paul Ortlinghaus, Pastor-Elder

Daniel 3:1-30

Listen or watch the sermon online at www.somachurch.us/resources/sermons

Sermon Discussion Questions for Growth Groups:

- Tell of a time you were burned while working or playing with fire.
- What part of the sermon was compelling or insightful?
- Read through the story in Daniel 3. (*Don't skip this... It might seem to take up a lot of time, especially with such a familiar story. But this is the Word of God! Let IT impact you.*)
- What are your thoughts about this quote from Pastor Alistair Begg regarding Daniel 3: “The very familiarity of it could be the greatest barrier to coming to terms with its powerful implications for our lives today.” Is this story one you are familiar with? Did you grow up learning it in Sunday School? What can you remember from learning it as a child?
- The key verses of this chapter are Daniel 3:16-18. Pastor Paul suggested that their faith/trust in God and His ability to rescue them was **not** rooted in their prior conviction and decision to obey the the 1st and 2nd Commandments (Exodus 20:3-5) but **FIRST AND FOREMOST** in their conviction of who they were in covenant relationship to their saving God (Exodus 20:1-2). The Indicatives (what God has done) **MUST** precede the Imperatives (commands) if we are to have sustaining obedience. Do you agree?
- God is able to save, but not obligated. We love the miraculous deliverance that the three men experienced. But the key here is that God is able, not obligated. After all, they were thrown in the fire! But God was with them (Isaiah 42:2)...literally! The NT is crystal clear that we will experience fiery trials (1 Peter 4:12; 2 Timothy 3:12; Acts 14:22). What fiery trials are you experiencing? Are you trusting in God's presence with you **IN THE FIRE** so that it doesn't overwhelm you? Even if He chooses not to remove you (He is able), are you standing strong?
- Spend time praying for one another. Maybe some are not experiencing fiery trials at the present time. Pray for God to prepare you for those trials that will come. Pray especially for those experiencing trials.