

Life Lesson 107
Daniel – Part 2
Text: Daniel 2-3

Introduction

Because Daniel and his friends obeyed God and worked hard for their new master, they were approved by the king after their three years of training the schooling. Their life as wise men in the palace was not always easy, though! There were many times when they were in great danger.

The Story

Once King Nebuchadnezzar had a strange dream. In the morning he was troubled. He could not figure out what the dream meant. In fact, he could not even remember it! But he knew that he had a strange dream, and it troubled him. He called all the wise men together.

“Tell me what my strange dream meant,” he demanded.

“Tell us about your dream and we will tell you the meaning,” they replied.

“I don’t remember,” he answered. “If you are truly wise, you can figure it out anyway.”

The wise men were horrified. How could they tell him what his dream meant when they didn’t know what it was?

The king was angry when he saw that they couldn’t help him. He gave orders for all the wise men in the kingdom to be killed.

All the wise men – that included Daniel and the other three Hebrew boys, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego! When the soldiers came after Daniel, he spoke to

them with great wisdom and asked permission to speak to the king first. They allowed him to go and speak to the king.

“If you will just give me a little time,” Daniel told the king, “Perhaps God will show me what your dream means.”

The king agreed, and Daniel and his three friends earnestly prayed that God would have mercy and show Daniel what the strange dream meant.

God was merciful and showed the secret of the dream to Daniel in a vision. It was about a statue made of different metals. The dream was to tell King Nebuchadnezzar of the kingdoms that would come in the future.

The king was grateful to Daniel and made him a great man. He gave him an honorable position and gave him any gifts. God had delivered Daniel and his friends from another trouble, but other problems were still ahead.

King Nebuchadnezzar made a great image and commanded that when the music of the orchestra played, everyone was to bow down and worship the statue.

Before, when the king’s decree was against God’s decree, Daniel and his friends were able to work things out. This time, though, the king’s intention was to make them serve another god. This was wrong and something they could not do! We don’t see Daniel in this part of the story. Perhaps he was in another part of the country. Shadrach, Mesheck, and Abednego had to make a decision. They refused to bow down to the idol.

The king forgot about how Daniel’s friends had served him. He was just plain angry! He ordered them to bow down to the idol he had made.

“If you do not,” he warned them angrily, “I will have you thrown in a fiery furnace.”

“If our God wants to, He will deliver us out of the fiery furnace,” they replied calmly. “If He does not choose to save us, we will die. We will not bow down before that idol.”

The king was furious!

“Heat that oven seven times hotter than usual,” he roared. “Take these men and throw them in.”

The servants did as the king commanded. The soldiers tied up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and threw them into the flaming furnace.

The flames were so hot that the man who threw them in was burned to death! The king watched in satisfaction as the three landed in the flames.

But then – he rose in astonishment and called to his counselors.

“Look,” he cried. “Did not we just throw in three men all tied up?”

“Of course,” they answered.

“I see four men instead of three. They are walking around in the furnace! How could that be? They are not hurt at all. Who is the fourth man? He looks like the Son of God!”

Nebuchadnezzar came as close as he dared to the furnace and called for the men to come out. Out they walked from the furnace. Not one hair had been singed, their clothes were not scorched, and they did not even smell like smoke!

“Blessed by the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego who has sent an angel to deliver his servants that trusted Him. They yielded their bodies to Him, and He protected them.”

The king also declared that no one was to speak evil of their God. He promoted the three faithful servants to be rulers over much of his kingdom.

The Life Lesson

Daniel and his friends were in danger, but they yielded themselves to God, and God delivered them. Do you think God can take care of you, too? If you surrender your life to Him, and yield yourself to Him in faith like they did, God will certainly take care of you as He did Daniel and his friends!

Review Questions

What difficult demand did King Nebuchadnezzar make of the wise men?

He wanted them to tell what his dream meant, but he couldn't remember his dream.

What did the king decree when the wise men couldn't tell him what the dream meant?

All the wise men in the palace would be killed.

What did Daniel do when the soldiers came to take him away?

He asked the king to wait while he prayed and asked God to tell him what the dream meant.

What was the dream about?

It was about a tree and was about the things that would happen in the future.

Who were Daniel's three friends who loved God, too?

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

Why was the king angry with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego?

They refused to bow down to the idol he had made.

Could they have suggested a compromise this time?

No, the king wanted them to bow down before another god, and they had to refuse or sin against God.

What did the king do to the three brave young men?

He had them thrown into a fiery furnace.

How hot was the furnace?

So hot that the people throwing them in burned to death.

What happened to Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego?

God kept them safe and unharmed in the fiery furnace.