



Repentance Tabernacle Church

RepentanceTabernacle@gmail.com
www.RepentanceTabernacle.org (984) 369-5171

If He delivers me, or if He doesn't, I will serve only God!

Sub-Topic: What excuses do you use for not standing up for Him?

Scripture: Daniel 3:8-18 – ¹⁵Now if ye be ready that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the image which I have made; well: but if ye worship not, ye shall be cast the same hour into the midst of a burning fiery furnace; and who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands? ¹⁶Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter. ¹⁷If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. ¹⁸But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

Why didn't the three men just bow to the image and tell God that they didn't mean it? They had **determined** never to worship another god, and they **courageously** took their stand. As a result, they were condemned and led away to be executed. They did not know whether they would be delivered from the fire; all they knew was that they would not bow to an idol. **Are you ready to take a stand for God no matter what?** When you stand for God, you will stand out. It may be painful, and it may not always have a happy ending. Be prepared to say, ***"If he delivers me, or if he doesn't, I will serve only God."***

Here are eight excuses they could have used to bow to the statue and save their lives: (1) We will bow down but not actually worship the idol. (2) We won't become idol worshipers, but will do this one time, then ask God for forgiveness. (3) The king has absolute power, and we must obey him. God will understand. (4) The king appointed us—we owe this to him. (5) This is a foreign land so God will excuse us for following the customs of the land. (6) Our ancestors set up idols in God's Temple! This isn't half as bad! (7) We're not hurting anybody. (8) If we get ourselves killed and some heathens take our high positions, they won't help our people in exile!

Although those (8) excuses sound sensible at first, they are dangerous. To bow to the image would violate God's command in Exodus 20:3, *"Thou shalt have no other gods before me."* It would also erase their testimony for God forever. **Never again could they talk about the power of their God above all other gods.** What excuses do you use for not standing up for Him?

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were pressured to deny God, but they chose to be faithful to Him no matter what happened? **They trusted God to deliver them, but they were determined to be faithful regardless of the consequences.** If God always rescued those who are true to Him, we would not need faith. Their religion would be a great insurance policy, and there would be lines of selfish people ready to sign up. **We should be faithful to God whether He intervenes on our behalf or not.** Our eternal reward is worth any suffering we may have to endure first.

The audience to whom Jude wrote was vulnerable to heresies and to temptations toward immoral living. He encouraged the people of God to remain firm in their faith and trust in God's promises for their future. This was all the more important because they were living in a time of increased apostasy. We, too, are living in the last days. We, too, are tempted to give in to sin. **Although there is much false teaching around us, we need not fear or give up in despair—God can keep us from falling, and He guarantees that if we remain faithful, He will bring us into His presence and give us everlasting joy.**

First Corinthians 15:58 tells us, *"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."* People of God, there will always be idol worshipers but it will take boldness and faith to keep you steadfast in the work of the Lord. Therefore, time is now that we must make a decision and say ***"If He delivers me, or if He doesn't, I will serve only God!"***

What excuses will you make for not standing up for Him?