

# CARING HEART FELLOWSHIP (CHF)

Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021

**TOPIC: PEOPLE JUST LIKE US – THE LIFE OF DANIEL**

**THEME: A TEST OF FAITHFULNESS**

**TEXT: EZEKIEL 14:14; DANIEL 3:1-19**

## INTRODUCTION

In Luke chapter 18:8 (CEV) Jesus asked the great question: *“But when the Son of Man comes, will he find on this earth anyone with faith?”*

The answer could be “No” for many people because a lot of Christians have compromised with the world and with sin thereby losing their faith and identity as true children of God.

Today’s study is designed to help us maintain our personal faith in the face of severe trials.

It is a practical test of faithfulness based on the experience of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.

**How was their faith tested? How was their faithfulness proved?**

## DISCUSSION

### I. THEY WERE TESTED BY FEAR (Daniel 3:1-8)

1. The king set up a golden image to promote loyalty and allegiance to himself as a deity. (v.1) “King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold ... and set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon.” (Isaiah 46:6).

**Q: What would represent the image of Gold in today’s world?**

2. Evidence that its purpose was to promote loyalty and allegiance to his kingship as a deity was his summoning all his state officials to the dedication of this golden image.

**Verse 2-** “He then summoned the satraps, prefects, governors, advisors, treasurers, judges, magistrates and all other provincial officials to come to the dedication of the image he had set up.” (Daniel 3:14)

**Q: Can you think of a good idea which was not a God idea?**

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3. The dedication went with a threat meant to put fear in all those who refused to worship this image. (v.6) “Whoever does not fall down and worship will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace.” (Daniel 3:11, 15).

**Q: How did Daniel’s friends respond to the threat of the consequence of not worshipping or praying to God?**

4. But Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego would not be intimidated into doing anything which would contradict God's command to all faithful Jews not to worship any other image except Jehovah God alone!  
(Deuteronomy 4:16-17; Exodus 20:4-5)

**Q: What made the three young men to be defiant against the king’s command?**

### **II. THEY WERE TESTED BY FURY (Daniel 3:9-19)**

1. Two times it is mentioned in this passage that the king was very furious at the three young men refusing to bow to the golden image he had made. (Vs.13 and 19) “Furious with rage, Nebuchadnezzar summoned Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.” “Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.”

**Q: How should faith respond in the face of fury and impending destruction?**

### **CONCLUSION**

The only way to get pure gold is to pass it through the refining process. Very often the only way to determine the genuineness of our faith and our commitment is for this to be tested by difficult and trying circumstances.

We always see final victory when we maintain our faithfulness (Psalm 119:30) in the face of such trials as the three young men did.