

CARING HEART FELLOWSHIP (CHF)

Friday, 8th October 2021

TOPIC: PEOPLE JUST LIKE US – THE LIFE OF DANIEL

THEME: A TEST OF FAITHFULNESS

TEXT: EZEKIEL 14:14; DANIEL 3:19-30

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 proven?

DISCUSSION

III. THEY WERE FINALLY TESTED BY FIRE (Daniel 3:19-30)

To be faithful is to be reliable, steadfast and unwavering, the young men determined to remain faithful to their God at all costs.

1. They demonstrated the kind of faithfulness intensified fire could not destroy.
(Vs.19) “And he ordered the furnace to be heated seven times hotter than usual.”

Q: What are the key elements of the faithfulness demonstrated by the 3 young men that couldn’t be destroyed by fire?

2. They demonstrated the kind of faithfulness instant punishment could not destroy.
(Vs.21) “So the soldiers tied up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and threw them into the flaming furnace with all their clothes still on, including their turbans.”

Q: Is the faithfulness exhibited by the 3 young men what some will consider as “blind loyalty to the things of God”?

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- 3.** It was a faithfulness which brought down God's supernatural power.
(Vs.27) “They came out, and the king's high officials, governors, and advisors all crowded around them. The men were not burned, their hair wasn't scorched, and their clothes didn't even smell like smoke.” (Psalm 91:3-11).

Q: Which other examples are there in scriptures, when people’s faithfulness has resulted in the manifestation of the supernatural?

- 4.** It was a faithfulness which brought great honour to the name of our Living God.
(Vs.29) “And I won't allow people of any nation or race to say anything against God. Anyone who does will be chopped up and their houses will be torn down, because no other god has such great power to save.”

Q: In what other ways can our faithfulness bring honour to the name of our Lord in today’s world?

CONCLUSION

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.

Faithfulness affects every relationship we have. The Bible says it is a gift from God. When we receive Christ as Lord, the Holy Spirit indwells us and brings the blessings of love, joy, peace and faithfulness (Galatians 5:22).

The fullness of these blessings depends on walking with God and yielding to His Spirit. We should be faithful to read and abide by God’s Word and to seek the Lord in prayer (Psalm 1:1-2; Ephesians 6:18).