Standing With Jesus Sun Am 4/30/23

# Memory Verse: Colossians 3:17 NKJV

# 17And whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

Target Thought: Jesus will stand with us when we stand for Him.

Have any of you ever heard the story about Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego? These young men, they were not much older than you all are, were friends of Daniels and they loved God will all of their heart, and serving Him was the most important thing to them in their life.

 In today's lesson an evil king named Nebuchadnezzar did not love or serve God. This evil king loved himself. He knew that Daniela and his 3 friends loved and served God because even thought they had been taken captives as slaves to the evil king they loved and served God even though it was not easy or comfortable. Should we love and serve God even when it is not easy?

The King had made a gold statue that was ninety feet tall and nine feet wide. He had one of his men go out and tell the people, "Listen to the King's command! When you hear the sound of the musical instruments, bow to the ground and worship the King's gold statue. Anyone who refuses to obey will be thrown into a blazing furnace."

So, at the sound of the music, all the people bowed down and worshipped the gold statue. Everyone except three young Jewish men — Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. When the king heard about that, he was very angry and had the three brought to him.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to worship an idol even though they may have to die to obey God. Will there be times in our life when it might be hard to stand with Jesus?

The king asked them. "Is it true that you have refused to worship the gold statue that I have set up? If so, I will give you one more chance and if you still refuse, I will throw you into a blazing hot furnace."

Do you know what the three men said to the King?

They answered, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God whom we serve is able to save us. They knew that God would take care of them, that God would never leave them or forsake them. God will rescue us from your power. But even if He doesn’t, we want to make it clear to you that we will never serve your gods or worship the gold statue you have set up.” Regardless of the situation should we ever listen to evil people or devil?

Nebuchadnezzar became furious and told his servants to tie the three up and throw them into the furnace.

Do you know what happened next?

When the King went back to check on Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, he saw four men walking around in the fire unharmed.

Who was that fourth Man that Nebuchadnezzar saw?

You are right! God was with them in the fire! Nebuchadnezzar released the three men and was amazed that they didn't even smell like smoke! He said to all the people, "Praise to the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. No other god can save people this way."

The three men chose to follow God even though they knew it meant they could be hurt or killed. They were not sure God would choose to save their lives, but they knew they had to do what was right regardless of the outcome. Only God could save Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego from the fire and Jesus is the only one who can save us from our sins. His sacrifice on the cross provided the way for us to be saved and have eternal life.

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, give us the courage to do the right thing even when it isn't easy. We know that our hope is in Jesus alone. We put our trust in him, and in his name we pray. Amen.

1 Did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego? Love God with all their heart and life?

2 Should we love and serve God even when it is not easy?

3 Will there be times in our lives when might be hard to stand with Jesus?

4 Regardless of the situation should we listen to evil people or the devil?

5 Who was the fourth Man king Nebuchadnezzar saw?