Another in the Fire

Daniel 3:1-30

1. Intro
	1. Two things is for certain:
		1. Will will go through the fires of life
		2. The believer will never be alone
	2. Setting:
		1. Babylonian captivity
		2. Enslaved, but treated nice
		3. Israel was in disarray, but God was still faithful
	3. Background:
		1. At the time of Daniel, Babylon was the intellectual center of western Asia, and the Chaldeans were renowned for their study and knowledge of astrology and astronomy. They kept detailed astronomical records for over 360 years, which can help us understand how the wise men from the East would have been able to recognize and follow the star that would lead them to the King of the Jews (Matthew 2:2).
		2. Chaldeans were are people group absorbed into the Babylonian empire, from the southern region of Babylon, eventually came into power in Babylon.
2. Text
	1. 1-7: The Kings edict:
		1. An idol was made and all were expected to worship
		2. The king believed himself to be more powerful than any God and worthy of worship
		3. A common problem, though today it looks different
	2. 8-15: the Chaldean tattletales
	3. 16-23:
		1. The three men make their stand before the king
		2. Their testimony is one of pure faith
		3. Basically: God will protect us, or He will not, but we will not serve.
		4. The results go as expected, the king declares he is more powerful than any god, and proceeds to show just how powerful he is…and he did.
	4. 24-25:
		1. The furnace account is a beautiful picture of the reality of the believers life.
		2. While in the fire, Christ is there with us.
		3. Things to note:
			1. They were allowed to be thrown into the fire
			2. They believed God completely
			3. God showed himself to be faithful
	5. 26-30:
		1. The King calls out the three men from the fire and then has proper understanding
		2. “Servants of the MOST HIGH GOD”
		3. The Testimony of Faith had effect: the King’s opinion swung back there other direction, but was still not a statement of Faith.
3. Point
	1. Challenge: Compromise or Confident
		1. If you trust in God your faith will be challenged
			1. The fire didn’t go away
			2. The angry people were still there
			3. The reality of the situation was they had gone against the edict of the King of Babylon, but the y refused to go against the KING OF KINGS no matter the consequences.
		2. If you trust in God you will be tempted to compromise
			1. The easy way out, would have been to bow the knee, in order to fight another day
			2. The temptation is usually there.
		3. If you trust in God you can enjoy confidence in submitting to His will.
			1. This is the byproduct of fully trusting in the Lord
			2. Confidence
			3. Peace
	2. Companionship
		1. If you trust in God, you are never alone
			1. Sometimes the story ends differently than we would like.
			2. Stephen was martyred for the faith, but God was there as well:
				1. Acts 7:54-60
				2. 54 Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. 55 But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing pat the right hand of God. 56 And he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing pat the right hand of God.” 57 But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together2 at him. 58 Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments vat the feet of a young man named Saul. 59 And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” 60 And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, z“Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.
		2. If you trust God, His presence is always with you
			1. The presence of God is REAL and RELEVANT
			2. The presence of God is mighty to save
		3. If you trust God, you have a friend that is closer than a brother
			1. Proverbs 18:24 “A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.”
			2. We have that sure relationship by faith in messiah
	3. Confession
		1. If you trust in God, others will be blessed
			1. I am encouraged by your faith
			2. I am encouraged by your joy
			3. I am encouraged by seeing children of God trust and obey.
		2. If you trust God, you will be called upon to demonstrate that trust
			1. This is where things get challenging!
			2. When you pray for wisdom or patience, you may get the opportunity to grow exponentially in those areas, but usually because you have dealt with something challenging.
		3. If you trust God, you will find LIBERTY
			1. John 8:36: If the son has set you free, you are free indeed
			2. 2 Corinthians 3:17 17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.
4. Close
	1. God’s presence is with us everywhere we go.

Joshua 1:9 "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

Isaiah 41:10 "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

Deuteronomy 31:6 "Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you."

Zephaniah 3:17 "The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing."

Matthew 28:20 "Teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Hebrews 13:5 "Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.'"

Romans 8:38-39 "For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."