



COURAGE: "BUT IF NOT"

DANIEL 3 // PASTOR TODD DUGARD

SEPTEMBER 23, 2018

Have you ever been in a conversation about government regulations that left you feeling like an outsider because of a conviction on how to follow Scripture?

Dig In

I'll live for Jesus when things go my way, but if not, I'll still live for Jesus...

...even when I'm mocked for my faith (3:1-7)

- Do you have any Christian convictions that you hold openly? Have you been mocked or marginalized for sticking with those beliefs while society has embraced other thoughts?
- As you read through this account you see God is actually mocking Babylon for having faith in its own power! Like Egypt before her, Babylon's idolatry is unable to put an end to the worship of the Eternal God who is above kings and their temporary empires. What does this text imply about Canada's ability to fully limit the church in worship?

...even when I'm falsely accused (3:8-12)

- Given the conditions for misunderstanding and the social consequences for going against the morally liberal status quo, how do you share the gospel with people? Does the risk of false accusation require any modification of the approach you take?
- Have you thought carefully about how you'll respond to accusations of homophobia, misogyny, opposition to women's rights, having an anti-science bias, demonstrating religious intolerance, and more? What have you said that was a help to your accuser? Is there anything unhelpful we should avoid saying?

...even when I'm under intense pressure (3:13-23)

- It's one thing to be courageous with your own life but do you think you'd worship God publicly if doing so would endanger your family or expose them to ridicule? How might God strengthen someone for such hard sacrifice?

Because I want to give God room to work in my life or in my death (3:24-30)

- How is the struggle against idols and empires to prevail as a faithful worshipper really a spiritual battle and not a political matter?
- Are you convinced that, regardless of the cost to you, the decision to worship God is always your best choice in the long run?

Break Out: Use this time to discuss any fears about public backlash or political fallout for worshipping God when the culture doesn't want that to happen.