DANIEL: A Savior in the Fire

Pastor Derek Sanford

June 5, 2016

**Life Group Discussion Questions:**

1. As you think about Sunday’s sermon, what one thing do you particularly remember?
2. Read **Daniel 3:19-30** aloud and then consider the Four Lessons from the Fiery Furnace:
   1. Full devotion can lead to dangerous places (verses 19-23).
      1. At various times in history, Christians have been burned at the stake for their faith. Re-read verses 16-18 covered in last week’s sermon and discuss what makes it possible to stand on the inside *and* the outside for your faith, even when faced with death.
      2. Discuss which is the greatest danger facing Christians today: persecution or “furnace avoidance” (becoming too comfortable and apathetic).
   2. Sometimes Jesus does not protect us FROM the fire: he meets us IN the fire (verses 24-27).
      1. When the three Israelite men were bound and thrown into the furnace, what immediately astonished the king?
      2. How is it possible that Jesus Christ was the fourth person in the flames?

[a pre-incarnate appearance of Jesus]

* + 1. If you are walking through a fiery ordeal today, what is the most important thing for you to remember? [you are not alone]
  1. Jesus can use the fire to free us from bondage (verses 24-25).
     1. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were cast bound into the furnace, but the king saw them walking in the fire. What lesson from their experience can we apply to our own lives? [Jesus can use a very difficult crisis or failure in our lives to free us from our bondage to sin]
     2. Read **James 1:2-4** to find out why we can consider it a joyful thing to have our faith tested.
  2. Our devotion during suffering will inspire others (verses 26-30).
     1. Reread verse 28 for the king’s reaction to the witness of the three Israelites walking out of the fiery furnace unharmed.
     2. The king concluded in verse 29 that “there is no other god who is able to rescue in this way.” What kind of bold stand might God be asking us to take, to point someone to the one true God?

**Application and Prayer:** Ask God to prepare your heart and give you courage so that you might be able to trust Him completely as you pray, “God, give me an opportunity to show my devotion to you.”