

A Pilgrim's Confidence

Scripture: **Daniel 3**

Series: **The Pilgrim Life: Living as God's People in a Pagan Land**

Sunday, April 17, 2016



Overview

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego's refusal to worship the golden image set up by King Nebuchadnezzar and consequently, their willingness to experience a fiery death as the cost of their obedience, was a result of their confidence in God. **A pilgrim's confidence living in the world is rooted in God's justice, mercy and sovereignty.**

Corroborating Texts

Psalms 115, Isaiah 43:1-3, 2 Timothy 3:12, 1 Peter 4:12-15, Philippians 2:6-8, Deuteronomy 32:4, Exodus 34:6-7, Psalm 135:5-6, Hebrews 4:16

Discussion Questions

1. Confidence is an admirable trait in this world. We often want to give the appearance of being a confident person, but would you consider yourself confident or insecure? Why? What makes you feel that way?
2. Read 2 Timothy 3:12. Godliness leads to persecution not by our good works, which will usually be applauded, but by what we believe, e.g. there is only one God, we are sinful and deserve punishment for our sins, and it's only through Jesus' death on the cross that we can be made right with God. Our stances on moral and ethical issues (stemming from what we believe) may also lead to persecution. Have you experienced persecution? If so, how? How did you handle it?
3. As Scripture makes clear and as Pastor Joe stated in the sermon, to follow Jesus means we're signing up for suffering, persecution and affliction. Have you dwelt upon this reality? How does embracing this truth change the way you live? What happens when we don't embrace this truth? Read 1 Peter 4:12-15. What do we learn from this passage about suffering and how we should react to it?
4. How is our confidence rooted in God's justice? God's mercy? God's sovereignty? Look to areas of your life where you are lacking confidence – perhaps an upcoming decision, a situation at work, or a family relationship. Practically, how can trusting God's justice, mercy, and/or sovereignty lead you to confidence?
5. We may think we would be obedient unto death, but truthfully, none of us would perfectly respond to suffering in obedience. This kind of submissal to the Father's will points to Jesus, who, though he was persecuted and experienced unfathomable suffering, was perfectly obedient unto death. It is Christ's obedience, not our own, that gives us confidence in this

world. Take time to pray, asking God to give us the confidence we need to live as His people in this pagan land.