

Seeing God at Work
Daniel 3
Unit 4 Day 4,5 of Experiencing God

Introduction:

- God is actively working to bring about the return of Christ
 - Matt 24:14 states that before Jesus returns the gospel must be preached to all the n_____ (Greek – ethnos)
 - Matt 28:18-20 records Jesus’s command to the church of making d_____ of all the nations (ethnos)
 - Rev 5:9,10 prophesies Jesus successfully purchasing with His blood people f_____ every tribe, tongue, nation and class of people.

- Evangelizing the world is a God-sized task
 1. _____ hundred people were first given the command of Matt 28:18-20. Did they think this to be possible? There were ½ billion people in the world then.
 2. Today, _____ billion people are to carry out this command. Does it seem like an impossible task? There are 7.2 billion people in the world today.

- God’s work is supposed to seem impossible because God’s work is something only God can do (yet He uses His p_____ to accomplish it).
 1. God called Moses to deliver the people from Egyptian slavery. Did Moses think that he could do that?
 2. Jesus told the 120 disciples that the Holy Spirit would empower them to be his witnesses to the world. Did they think that they could evangelize the world?
 3. When God commands us to join Him in His work, we should feel in _____; for His work always involves God-sized dimensions.
 - a. God will call you as an i_____ to join Him in His work.
 - b. God will call us as a c_____ to join Him in His work.
 4. We must be able to see God work in order to join Him in His work.

Step One - Let us Obey

- King Nebuchadnezzar ruled a kingdom that included many nations. He decided to test to see if there was u_____ in the kingdom
 1. Built an huge statue of g_____
 2. Required all the assembly to w_____ the image by bowing down before it when the musical instruments began playing.
 3. The penalty for disobedience was d_____ by the fiery furnace.

- What does God’s word say about worshipping
 1. The first _____ commandments forbid worshipping anything or anyone other than God
 2. There is only one _____ - worship Him
 3. Everything and everyone else are c_____ - do not worship any of these.

●Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego

1. They could have bowed down to the image without actually worshipping it, could they not? (how many times have you stood up to worship God by singing without truly worshipping in your heart?)
 - a. We must be concerned with not just what is in our hearts, but what we communicate by our a_____ to the non-Christian world.
 - b. If they would have bowed down to the image, they would have communicated to the unbelieving world that they were w_____ an idol.
2. The three men had only one option – to o_____ God despite the penalty of death.

●Are you exhibiting a life of obedience to God before the unbelieving world?

1. Financial pinches – you cannot rationalize, theorize, or minimize your response (it is either sinful or faithful)
2. Sexual temptation - you cannot rationalize, theorize, or minimize your response (it is either sinful or faithful)
3. How you react - you cannot rationalize, theorize, or minimize your response (it is either sinful or faithful)
4. If we are going to see God working we must FIRST cleanse ourselves from s_____ and obey God (2 Tim 2:21)

Step Two – Let God Work

●Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego’s obedience brought about God’s communication of j_____ Him in His work.

1. The king asked the three men: “If I throw you into the furnace, what god is there that could save you from it?”
2. The three men reveal in their reply that God had told them what He would do.
 - a. Some translations add a bunch of words to this Hebrew construction and mess up the meaning. The KJV has the most literal reading. The Hebrew gives two conditions:
 - 1) If it be
 - 2) If it not be
 - b. The context tells us that the men are saying
 - 1) If they are thrown into the furnace, God w_____ deliver them
 - 2) If they are not thrown into the furnace, they will still not w_____ the image

●The three men let God work (they did not take matters into their own hands – e.g. give in to fear or jump into the furnace themselves).

1. How many times do we take God’s work into our own hands?
 - a. The salvation of others
 - b. Changing others
 - c. Church work
2. God must work through us and in us, otherwise it is just us working

●God-sized results

1. Nebuchadnezzar heated up the furnace to the extreme
 - a. The guards carrying the men to the furnace were b_____ up as they threw them into the furnace
 - b. A f_____ figure was in the furnace walking around with the three men
 - c. The three came out of the furnace not only un_____ but without any smoke smell!
2. Nebuchadnezzar concluded that this was something only God can do and p_____ God as above all throughout the kingdom.

●Are we letting God do the work through us as individuals and as a church?

Conclusion:

●Are you reflecting to those around you that Christ makes a positive difference in your life?

1. Never r_____ your actions (*it is justified in this case*)
2. Never m_____ your behavior (*who would blame me? Everyone else would do the same thing*)
3. Never theorize – *it does not really matter what I do because God will forgive me and work it out*
4. The FIRST STEP to seeing God as work is OBEDIENCE

●Are you praying for God to use you? This church?

1. Will you pray and then watch where God is working?
2. Will you come this Wednesday night to see the dilemma this church is in financially and pray? Are we just doing church work or is God working?