

## Ungodly Men & Ungodly Laws!

The Old Testament prophet, Daniel, viewed himself as nothing more than God's humble servant. He didn't take himself too seriously! He saw himself as just one piece in God's sovereign plan for the world! Though life circumstances, no doubt, made him fearful at times; fear did not control him! When we get over our fear, we can kind of "let go" & "let God" use us however He wants. I don't have to take care of myself. God takes care of me! God shows us, in Daniel's story, how we ought to respond when ungodly men make ungodly laws. In Daniel, chapter 3, Babylonian King, Nebuchadnezzar, builds a 90' tall gold statue of himself; and, demands that everyone bow down & worship it; or, be thrown into a fiery furnace. That would be a problem for Daniel's 3 Hebrew friends—Hananiah, Mishael & Azariah! They had been raised in good Jewish homes. They knew the commandments Yahweh had given to Moses in Exodus 20—*"I am the LORD your God; do not have any other gods besides me; do not make an idol for yourself; You must not bow down to them or worship them."* So, here they were between a rock; and, a hard place! Obey the King & face God's judgment; or, obey God & face the fiery furnace. Get the picture? There are probably thousands of people, representing all the

nations that Babylon had subdued; all, waiting for the sound of the music. They hear it; and, everyone bows down & worships the gold image except 3 men. They had to know that their insubordination wouldn't go unnoticed. And, it wasn't: *"Some of the Chaldeans took this occasion to come forward and maliciously accuse them"* (3:8). So, they are made to stand before King Nebuchadnezzar; and, they *"...replied to the king, 'Nebuchadnezzar, we don't need to give you an answer to this question. If the God we serve exists, then He can rescue us from the furnace of blazing fire, and He can rescue us from the power of you, the king. But even if He does not rescue us, we want you as king to know that we will not serve your gods or worship the gold statue you set up'"* (3:16-18). Enraged by their insubordination, the king demanded that they be thrown into the furnace. But, they determined to obey God rather than the king; and, trust God to do whatever He willed. They had faith that God was able to deliver them; but, even if He didn't, they would not bow to the king's image. There is a great application to take from their example—we need to be careful we don't make claims for God on His behalf! We may think that God has to respond in a certain way; but, our knowledge is finite! His ways are higher than ours! So, don't make promises for God that He doesn't make!

## Give God The Glory

We can't make demands on God about how our personal story ends! They trusted that God would deliver them either by a miracle; or, by death! We have to be careful that our trust in God is not limited to delivery by miracle! Their trust in God was not just tied to delivery from the furnace: *"...EVEN IF He does NOT,"* they said, *"we won't bow to false gods!"* That's a gospel response. Sadly, the gospel being preached in the majority of our American churches is all about "me." It's man-centered; and, not God-centered! So, if He doesn't deliver me from the furnace I won't trust Him! That's where false teaching begins... with man's ways! King Nebuchadnezzar took credit for his accomplishments; when, it was God who blessed him with his abilities! I read somewhere that: *"Pride is like plagiarism because it attempts to take for ourselves Glory that belongs to God alone."* God will not share His glory with you! Humble yourself before Him.

## "Greeting Team"

### For Sunday, October 31

Remember: Meet in the coat room @ **10:30 am** for brief prayer & then go "welcome" people! NOTE: Keep an eye on the auditorium for those who slipped past!

## Greeters this week:

### 5TH SUNDAY!

### EVERYONE IS A GREETER!

- 1st— Erickson Thursday PM;  
Jen Hagler Thursday PM
- 2nd— Terry Embke Monday Night;
- 3rd—Randy Ehlers Sunday Night;  
Donna Ehlers Monday Morning
- 4th—Curt Mastbergen Sunday Noon;  
Tackett Sunday Night

## Small Groups @ MBC

*Are Committed To  
Multiplying —  
While Numeric Growth Alone  
Does Not Make  
An Effective Small Group,  
Failure To Grow Numerically  
May Be A Sign Of  
An Unhealthy Small Group*

-Guide To: Small Group Ministry  
@ MBC

## Announcements

1. Looking For A New Podcast?  
Try the  
*"Everyday Disciple Podcast"*  
by Caesar Kalinowski
2. Looking For A News Source?  
Try The Christian Post at  
[www.christianpost.com](http://www.christianpost.com)  
or on Twitter