



## Theophany: Furnace Faith

Daniel 3:14-29

Ray Cortese, December 5 & 6, 2015

### Step 1: Reflect on the Text

Why do we do this first? We always want to start with the Bible. The goal is to meditate on the Word and read it with an ear sensitive to the Holy Spirit's promptings. Look for words or phrases that stand out through logic, repetition, layout, etc.

-  Read Daniel 3:14-29. What stood out to you? What did you find interesting and/or important? What was challenging or caused you to have questions?

### Step 2: Reflect on the Sermon

#### INTRODUCTION

- 1 The need for furnace faith can come on suddenly. Can you recall a time when you were caught off guard by a trial or trouble? In other words, "I never expected to go through..."
- 2 What was your one big/main takeaway from the service? If someone had arrived as everyone was leaving, and they stopped you in the parking lot and asked, "What was the sermon about?" what would you have said?

#### FURNACE FAITH: IT'S RESISTANCE

- 3 Ray said we live with the pressure to conform. The culture demands the privatization of religion. Has this been true in your experience? How have you felt the pressure to conform or privatize your faith?
- 4 Ray asked, "Is your resistance costing you anything?" How did Rosario Butterfield respond when she was asked to change her message?

## FURNACE FAITH: IT'S OBJECT

- 5 Why isn't faith about the quantity and quality of our fervor? If it's not about that, then what is it about?
- 6 What were Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego saying about God and the nature of faith with those three simple words, "But if not"? How can you apply those three words to the furnaces in your life?

## FURNACE FAITH: IT'S PROMISES

- 7 *Suffering is certain.* Read 1 Peter 4:12. Why does suffering sometimes surprise us?
- 8 *Suffering is purposeful.* How have you grown or matured in your faith as a result of suffering?
- 9 *Suffering is never solitary.* How did Jesus experience the fiery furnace for His people?

## **Step 3: Final Reflections**

- † How has your understanding, appreciation, and love for Jesus and the gospel grown as a result of this study?
- ♥ In what areas of faith and practice are you feeling convicted by the Holy Spirit to act as a result of this study?