



Countercultural Courage

Daniel 3:13-29

Chad Townsley, April 14 & 15, 2018

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 the sermon scripture(s) listed above. What stood out to you? What do you find interesting and/or important? What is challenging or causes you to have questions?

Step 2: Reflect on the Sermon

INTRODUCTION

- 1 Who is the most courageous person you have ever known? Would you describe yourself as courageous?
- 2 What was your one main/big takeaway from the sermon? How would you summarize the main theme of the sermon in one phrase or sentence?

COUNTERCULTURAL COURAGE: PRESENT DANGER

- 3 Chad said, "Following God in a hostile culture should be an everyday occurrence, not an occasional inconvenience." Are you living dangerously? Do you put yourself in situations that are challenging, trying, or require suffering? Are you regularly seeking opportunities to trust God's provision and timing in your life?
- 4 Read Isaiah 43:1-3. Are you going through any fiery furnaces right now? How do God's promises encourage you in the midst of trials?

COUNTERCULTURAL COURAGE: FAITH IN A WORTHY OBJECT

- 5 How is the emptiness of other gods illustrated in the story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego? How is the emptiness of other gods illustrated in the two most recent presidential campaign slogans?
- 6 Why did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego say, “But if not...” to King Nebuchadnezzar? Complete the following sentence based on your own life story: “Biblical courage is being willing to _____ because God is faithful.”

COUNTERCULTURAL COURAGE: BENEFACTORS OF SUFFERING

- 7 In your own words, how does the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego point to Jesus?
- 8 Why is Jesus the most courageous man who ever lived?

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?