



EVEN IF HE DOESN'T...

BIG IDEA

When choosing God could cost you everything...

declare that God can do a miracle and decide to worship Him even if He doesn't.

SCRIPTURE

Read Daniel 3

OPENER

Have you ever put something or someone ahead of God? What or who was it?

QUESTIONS

1. In John's sermon, he used the words **respect**, **loyalty**, **obey** and **fear** to describe what our attitude and behavior is to be toward God. Talk about how each of these behaviors, when adopted, can assist you in being a consistent witness for Christ during difficult and stressful times.
2. Talk about how practicing a sport prepares you to execute successfully in the game. Can the same principles be used in preparing spiritually for difficult and stressful situations that require a response that brings glory to God? Discuss.
3. In the sermon, John said "you can't worship God and _____". Give some examples of how one could be tempted to put money, power, people's approval or yourself before God. How can we shield ourselves against this real temptation, so we remain good and faithful servants of God?
4. When have you chosen Christ where it truly cost you something? Did God make it right soon afterward or do you still suffer (waiting for things to be made right sometime in the future)? How can we help each other stand up with courage when the cost of choosing Christ remains high in this life?
5. Often when we draw closest to God and are aligned well with His purpose, Satan attacks us to try to impede our faith and the growth of Christ's Kingdom. Considering this we should almost expect difficult times to arise as we grow in our faith and service to God. How can knowing this help us prepare for those times and allow us to face difficulty with joy? (James 1:2-6)
6. In the sermon we heard that life on earth is like the parking tram at Disney; it's a ride, but it's not anywhere near as exciting as the amusement park itself (Heaven). How do we live our life in such a way that shows we believe this analogy to be true?
7. John said in the sermon that his time in a hospital bed led him to a giant leap of faith; even if he never recovered, he would still worship God. Have you ever had a similar experience resulting in significant growth in your faith? Explain.



TAKEAWAY

- In your lifetime you will be pressured to worship something other than God.
- Your loyalty, respect and fear reveal what you worship. These are choices, not feelings!

REFERENCES

Isaiah 12:2

Matthew 4:1-11; 6:24; 10:28

Mark 8:34

John 15:10-17

Acts 4:19

2 Corinthians 4:4

Galatians 1:10

Hebrews 11:32-39

WORD WEALTH

Respect: A high or special regard; esteem.

Obey: Comply with the command, direction, or request; submit to authority.

Loyalty: A strong feeling of support or allegiance.

Worship: Reverent devotion and allegiance.

Fear: Dread or alarm in facing danger – or - profound reverence and awe.

DIGGING DEEPER

- Read Ephesians 6:10-18. When we face difficult situations and people it can be easy to lose sight of the fact that we are in a spiritual battle. What do these verses teach us about the battles we face? Why do we so often forget about the spiritual side of the battle? According to these verses, how can we best equip ourselves for the battles we face?
- How important do you think our obedience to and trust in God is to God? (Numbers 20:8-12; 1 Chronicles 13:9-10)?
- As you read of the testing of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in Daniel 3 what did you learn about their faith? Discuss. How does their experience help you evaluate your own faith and determine whether you have that kind of authentic faith that can be tested “in the fire” and bring glory to God?