



New Hampton Community Church

Message Notes ~ Sunday ~ June 23, 2024

**“God & Country”**

➤ There will always be \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

*“King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, ninety feet high and nine feet wide, and set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon. <sup>2</sup> He then summoned the satraps, prefects, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates and all the other provincial officials to come to the dedication of the image he had set up. <sup>3</sup> So the satraps, prefects, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates and all the other provincial officials assembled for the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up, and they stood before it.*

*<sup>4</sup> Then the herald loudly proclaimed, “This is what you are commanded to do, O peoples, nations and men of every language: <sup>5</sup> As soon as you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipes and all kinds of music, you must fall down and worship the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up.*

*<sup>6</sup> Whoever does not fall down and worship will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace.”*

*<sup>7</sup> Therefore, as soon as they heard the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp and all kinds of music, all the peoples, nations and men of every language fell down and worshiped the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.”*

Daniel 3:1-7

*“Furious with rage, Nebuchadnezzar summoned Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. So these men were brought before the king, <sup>14</sup> and Nebuchadnezzar said to them, “Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the image of gold I have set up? <sup>15</sup> Now when you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipes and all kinds of music, if you are ready to fall down and worship the image I made, very good. But if you do not worship it, you will be thrown immediately into a blazing furnace. Then what god will be able to rescue you from my hand?”*

*<sup>16</sup> Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. <sup>17</sup> If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king. <sup>18</sup> But even if he does not, we*

*want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.”*

Daniel 3:13-18

➤ A personal relationship with God, empowered them to \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_

*“The LORD is my light and my salvation—  
whom shall I fear?*

*The LORD is the stronghold of my life—  
of whom shall I be afraid?”* Psalm 27:1

*“Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and his attitude toward them changed. He ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual <sup>20</sup> and commanded some of the strongest soldiers in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace. <sup>21</sup> So these men, wearing their robes, trousers, turbans and other clothes, were bound and thrown into the blazing furnace. <sup>22</sup> The king’s command was so urgent and the furnace so hot that the flames of the fire killed the soldiers who took up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, <sup>23</sup> and these three men, firmly tied, fell into the blazing furnace.*

*<sup>24</sup> Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, “Weren’t there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?”*

*They replied, “Certainly, O king.”*

*<sup>25</sup> He said, “Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods.”*

Daniel 3:19-25

➤ ‘Followers of Jesus’; there is \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ with you

Questions to Talk about...

1. What kind of things in your life compete for your trust and allegiance?
2. Why is it so tempting to forget about God and rely on these things instead?
3. Why do you think Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had the courage and strength to remain faithful to God?
4. How does it make you feel that Jesus was in the fire with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego? Would you have hoped for a different outcome?
5. What part of the Serenity Prayer is most meaningful to you? Why?