

Living Lent | Saturday, March 20

Kris Dockery

Is it true?

Today's Reading: Daniel 3:14-20; 24-28

"Nebuchadnezzar answered and said to them, "Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego that you do not serve my gods or worship the golden image that I have set up?"

Daniel 3:14

Encouragement for the Lenten Journey:

"Is it true?" Depending on the subject matter, these three words can lead you closer toward intimacy with a loved one, or they can lead you to a dreadful end. The latter seemed to be the case for three Hebrew boys exiled in Babylon under King Nebuchadnezzar. After raising a statue for the masses to worship, these rebels were brought before the king for not obeying the commands to worship this lifeless idol.

"Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the golden image that I have set up?" (Dan. 3:14 ESV) The question no doubt implied a threat that was not to be assumed empty. They could have cowered in fear and bowed to Nebuchadnezzar's demand. They could have faltered in this moment of decision and given in to

what everyone else around them was doing.

Have you ever felt that tension? Maybe your convictions call you to stand out and be different, but when the consequences clap back there is a real temptation to just give in. Have you ever experienced that? It might not be death by inferno, but every day we face the opportunity to bow to the things of this world or the kingdoms of this world in a thousand mini-decisions. Will I give in to this or that? Will I participate in what I know not to be true of my faith? There are opportunities all around us to bow to the things of this world. In the moment of decision, what is true of you?

My prayer for us—believers in Jesus—is that we are filled with boldness from the Spirit of God so that we might refuse to bow and conform to the things of this world. I pray that rumors would spread

among the kingdoms of the earth that there is a people that refuses to give in and simply go along. "Is it true?" they may inquire with a threat of destruction. But with a resounding boldness I pray we echo the words of these three that even if earthly deliverance isn't reserved for us, we will not worship gods or kingdoms set up by men.

Who knows? Maybe that daring faith will grab the attention of others so that they too might turn and worship the God of Heaven.

Contributor and Contributing Body of Christ:

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