

I. The temptation (v. 1-13)

- A. The temptation to blend in with the crowd

“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world.” (Romans 12:1)

- B. The temptation to compromise their faith

“You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I am the Lord your God.” (Exodus 20:4)

- C. The temptation to save their positions of authority

- D. The temptation to save their lives

II. Their testimony (iv. 14-18)

- A. They defied the King’s order

“But Peter and John replied, ‘Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God’s sight to obey you rather than God.’” (Acts 4:19)

- B. They publicly declared their faith in God

“Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven.” (Matthew 11:33)

- C. They were not afraid of the judgment of man

“I tell you my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more. But I show you whom you should fear; fear him who after the killing of the body, has power to throw you into hell.” (Luke 12:5)

- D. They had faith in the power of God

“There is no one like you, O Lord; you are great and your name is mighty in power.” (Jeremiah 10:6)

- E. They submitted to the will of God

III. The fiery furnace (v. 19-23)

- A. The king responded with extreme anger

“If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first.” (John 15:18)

- B. The men were thrown into a fiery furnace

IV. The triumph (v. 24-30)

- A. They enjoyed a new sense of freedom

- B. They experienced the presence of God

“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you. And when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned. The flames will not set you ablaze.” (Isaiah 43:2)

- C. They experienced the deliverance of God
- D. They brought glory to God
- E. They brought safety to others
- F. They were given promotions