**Keep Your Cool, In A Hot Situation**

(Daniel 3:19-20 KJV)

***19****Then was Nebuchadnezzar full of fury, and the form of his visage was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego: therefore he spake, and commanded that they should heat the furnace one seven times more than it was wont to be heated.* ***20****And he commanded the most mighty men that were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace.*

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uring the summer in times past I observe a man sitting at the bus stop. Strangely he was dressed in winter attire during a summer occasion. As I examined him from afar off—I noticed that he was dress in what looked liked five shirts, three pairs of pants, four pairs of socks and long trench coat that was unbutton, and he carried a bag of thrash and a broom in his hand. He looked somewhat nomadic which is to say that he really had no place to really call home—therefore he moves around living from place to place.

On another occasion I spotted him at Circle K while purchasing gas and I reached into my pocket and blessed him with a five dollar bill that I retrieved, and I then proceeded to asked him this question, “why do you wear winter attire in a summer season?” he responded by saying “you see young man, what I’m trying to do is “Be Cool, In A Hot Situation". I couldn't understand the logic behind his statement but he said, “The more you put on the cooler you'll be!" This was his way of saying again “Keep Your Cool, In A Hot Situation".

This reminded me about a hot situation which took place in ancient Babylon, with a kingdom that was also unfriendly toward God and His ways. There in Babylon too many people were forced to worship the pagan god who was commanded by a heathen king named Nebuchadnezzar.

Here is what we need to get a hold of today: If we are going to live for Jesus in this world; if we are going to be His alone; if we are going to refuse to let this world squeeze us into its mold; then we are going to suffer persecution. This is what the Bible teaches us!

(John 16:33 KJV)

*These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.*

In the argument of this subjective we are going to meditate on how we will handle living for God, when the heat is in our neighbor and living on Self Avenue. How effectively will you be able to maintain your faith when the heat is on or will you vacate your faith and disappear on God, will you still be able to stand firmly with the church, and your very own assurance that no matter what, I'm going to continue with the church? It is an awesome task to stand with the Lord when life is good and cool; but what about when the heat gets turned up? How will we respond in a heated situation? We all need to propose this question to our own selves. So, don't become complacent and conceited while living in prosperity and in pleasure, because God may grant the heat like Nebuchadnezzar to be turned up in your territory.

1. **The Threat**

(Daniel 3:14-15 KJV)

***14****Nebuchadnezzar spake and said unto them, Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, do not ye serve my gods, nor worship the golden image which I have set up?****15****Now if ye be ready that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the image which I have made; well: but if ye worship not, ye shall be cast the same hour into the midst of a burning fiery furnace; and who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?*

In these verses we deal with a man of fury, fatigue, and frustration and he has an attitude problem—and that problem is he's stuck on himself. His name is Nebuchadnezzar and he's the king of Babylon. It was Nebuchadnezzar who was so into Himself that he decided to incorporate a golden statue which stood ninety feet high and nine feet wide. And Nebuchadnezzar positioned this idol god in the plains of Dura near Babylon.