

## Scripture Reading

### **A Reading of the Book of Prophet Daniel** (*Daniel 3:17-18*)

If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and He will deliver us from your majesty's hand. But even if He does not, we want you to know, your majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up." The Word of the Lord. R. Thanks be to God.

### **Reflection – Trust in God Accepts all Outcomes**

**God is able...** Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego had been ordered by King Nebuchadnezzar to be thrown into a blazing furnace for disobeying the king's command to worship his gods and the gold image that he had set up. They were unafraid as they knew God is able to deliver them from any danger that can beset them. They confidently kept their faith and refuse to obey the king's unjust laws. They chose to be loyal to God rather than to please the king who had the authority to put them to death. They demonstrated to the king their faith in God's power. *Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us (Ephesians 3:20).*

**But even if He does not....** In the face of a threat of painful death by fire, the three young men demonstrated their trust in God. Even if God does not deliver them from their fiery deaths they were being threatened with, they would not obey the king to worship false gods. Their loyalty to God is unconditional. They let God do what He wants to do. In this, the young men had a great understanding of God's love and mercy and that His ways are not our ways. They understood that God works not just for our momentary good but more importantly, for our eternal good. *Though He slay me, yet will I hope in Him...(Job 13:15).* They do not know what will happen to them but they know that whatever happens, they are secure in God's hands.

**God is close to us in our moments of difficulty.** *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 3:25*). Jesus was in the furnace together with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. Not one of the hair of the three young men were singed when they emerged from the furnace. They did not smell of fire whilst the soldiers who threw them into the fire were themselves killed by the raging fire. A good mother will always be at the side of her sick child. God says He is more loving than any mother. *Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you! (Isaiah 49:15).*

**Trust is the barometer of our love for and faith in God.** Trust is the sweet fruit of our faith in and love for God. The more we love God and have faith in Him, the stronger our personal relationship with Him, the greater our understanding of the eternal truths of our faith, the easier it is to put all our trust in God. Ultimately all trials God sends us are a test of our trust in Him. It is not easy to trust God when we do not understand His love and power, and His way of doing things. However, if we are able to place all our trust in God, we will have greater inner peace and will be more able to live life to the full capacity as a disciple of Christ.

**Surely the righteous will never be shaken (Psalm 112.6).** The three young men were never for a moment afraid. Their hearts were secure. They lived their lives pleasing to God by being steadfast in their faith, practising their faith even when serving the court of the pagan king, King Nebuchadnezzar. Rather than defiling themselves spiritually with their assigned food and wine from the pagan king's table, the three young men asked secretly to be given instead vegetables and water. They practised their faith steadfastly even when it was difficult and dangerous for them to do so. God is never outdone by our generosity. God rewarded them with a secure heart, a heart that remains steadfast in trust even when faced with a painful death sentence.

### **Conversation with Jesus**

Precious Lord, my faith is a priceless gift from You. My soul is my most precious possession on earth. Help me keep it undefiled by being steadfast in my faith in You. Help me understand more fully Your love and power operating in my daily life. Help me understand in greater depth and practise the precepts of my faith and Your commandments. Form my heart and mind in faith, love and trust in You. Help me build my faith on a house on rock by practising it in my every day life even when it is difficult for me to do so. Thus, may my heart be always secure even in the midst of trials and difficulties, knowing that whatever the outcome You are always working for my eternal good and the welfare of those around me. Lord, if I do not trust in You, to whom can I turn? Mary, Seat of Wisdom teach me to follow Your Son Jesus more sincerely. Thank You Jesus. Praise You Jesus.