

**Title: It's A Journey - Daniel 3 19-30**

---

**Read:**

<sup>19-23</sup> Nebuchadnezzar, his face purple with anger, cut off Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. He ordered the furnace fired up seven times hotter than usual. He ordered some strong men from the army to tie them up, hands and feet, and throw them into the roaring furnace. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, bound hand and foot, fully dressed from head to toe, were pitched into the roaring fire. Because the king was in such a hurry and the furnace was so hot, flames from the furnace killed the men who carried Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to it, while the fire raged around Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. <sup>24</sup> Suddenly King Nebuchadnezzar jumped up in alarm and said, "Didn't we throw three men, bound hand and foot, into the fire?" "That's right, O king," they said. <sup>25</sup> "But look!" he said. "I see four men, walking around freely in the fire, completely unharmed! And the fourth man looks like a son of the gods!" <sup>26</sup> Nebuchadnezzar went to the door of the roaring furnace and called in, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the High God, come out here!" Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego walked out of the fire. <sup>27</sup> All the important people, the government leaders and king's counselors, gathered around to examine them and discovered that the fire hadn't so much as touched the three men—not a hair singed, not a scorch mark on their clothes, not even the smell of fire on them! <sup>28</sup> Nebuchadnezzar said, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego! He sent his angel and rescued his servants who trusted in him! They ignored the king's orders and laid their bodies on the line rather than serve or worship any god but their own. <sup>29</sup> "Therefore I issue this decree: Anyone anywhere, of any race, color, or creed, who says anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego will be ripped to pieces, limb from limb, and their houses torn down. There has never been a god who can pull off a rescue like this." <sup>30</sup> Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the province of Babylon.

**Think:**

Finally the King is beginning to get the idea. He finally realises that our God is the only true God. So now he will become a Christian and suddenly everything will be OK. Or on the other hand he might just threaten to rip into little pieces anyone who doesn't worship our God. Now we know this King isn't the brightest spark in the world but he really has some way to go before he is to live the life that God wants him to live. But actually his is just an extreme version of many of us. Do you have mates who say they are Christian, but continuously seem to make wrong decisions. Maybe you feel like you stuff up. Maybe like me you look back at things you did even just a little while ago and you know you would never do them now. Does that mean that you weren't a Christian then? Does it mean that because you mates muck up they aren't Christians? Let me say it loud and clear NO. You are still a Christian, they are still Christians, they and us are just learning as we go. That's one of the great things about God he teaches us as we go. And because Jesus died on the cross for us, we can say sorry and ask for forgiveness as we discover where we have mucked up. So as you continue trying to be the best Christian you can be, remember the King. Remember the fact that we all muck up sometimes and just because you know Jesus doesn't mean you won't muck up too. Oh and try not to rip apart anyone just because they don't know God.

**Pray:**

Father, thank you that you reveal to me just what I need to know for today. Please help me see the thing you would have me change today. Amen.

**Action:**

Do you know someone who has mucked up a lot recently? Why not give them a call and remind them that you are there with them. Bye.

---