

Sermon Title: Un-easy
Scripture Used: Daniel 3:15b-18

Sermon Discussion Guide (5/5)

The logo for Canton First Methodist Church is a blue rectangular box with the word "CANTON" in large, white, sans-serif capital letters at the top, and "FIRST METHODIST CHURCH" in smaller, white, sans-serif capital letters below it.

Begin the discussion by checking in with each person present and share prayer requests/praises with the group. Then, have one person offer a prayer for the group making sure to include any prayer requests that were mentioned earlier.

Scripture

Read Daniel 3:13-18 out loud. Discuss any initial thoughts you have about these verses.

Observation

Who or what would you say King Nebuchadnezzar worships? How is the object of King Nebuchadnezzar's worship linked to his identity and the actions he takes in this Scripture?

In verse 18, how do the three men demonstrate both their confidence in the power of God and also their humility in not presuming to know the will of God? How does this posture that the men take in the face of opposition show us how we are to live when faced with the temptation to give in to idolatry?

Read Daniel 3:19-28. How does God deliver the three men from their trial? What does God's response reveal to us about His identity?

Read John 1:12-13. What does it mean to be "children of God"? What is the significance of our identity coming from God and not from the world?

Application

Pastor Matt said in his sermon that our worship reveals our identity. What does it mean to worship something? Pay special attention to what worship might look like not just on Sunday mornings but during our regular weekly routines. What idol are you most tempted to worship? Why do you think this is?

In Pastor Matt's sermon, he said that from an early age, the Jewish people were taught their identity of who they were, who God is, and what God had done for them. How might God be calling you to train up the children in our identity as people of God?

What would it look like for you to fully embrace your identity as a child of God who is created to worship God? How is this picture different from how you are currently living your life?

One of the ways that we can be better prepared to face trials in life is by reminding ourselves of who God is and who we are in Christ. What is one step you can take this week to make yourself more open to the ways that God is revealing His presence and His power to us?

Prayer

Conclude your time by offering a prayer to God. Praise God that His love for us will never fail. That no matter what is occurring in our lives or the world around us, He will remain the same. Ask God for forgiveness for the times that we ascribe our identity to the things of this world and forget that who we are is rooted in who God is. Thank God that even when He does not answer our prayers in the way we have asked Him to do so, He is still good and He is still working in our world. Ask God to show us how we can more fully live into our identity as people who are loved by God and created to worship God.

Meditation Prayer for the Week: "To all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God" (John 1:12)

Think about these words while you are going about your daily tasks. You could say these words while you are cooking dinner, driving to an appointment, or completing household chores. Doing this will allow you to refocus your mind on God and His truths.