

# *Resurrection Life of Jesus Church*

## **GOD AND YOU**

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### **DIFFICULT SITUATIONS**

Jesus is greater than the Devil and this should inspire us be more than just an average Christian. **1 John 4:4**

If God is for us, who can stand against us? God will lead us into difficult situations but our spiritual effort – or lack thereof – will certainly affect the people around us.

### **WORSHIP OR DIE**

Hananiah (Shadrach), Mishael (Meshach) and Azariah (Abednego) came to Babylon with Daniel when Nebuchadnezzar sacked Jerusalem.

Daniel had previously revealed Nebuchadnezzar's dream and provided the interpretation. The king was so greatly impressed that Daniel was elevated and so were Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. **Daniel 2:46-49**

Nebuchadnezzar had an inflated view of Babylon's success which eventually saw him commission a 90 foot gold statue to celebrate his own greatness and call people to worship it. The king's demand was simple: worship or die. **Daniel 3:1-7**

Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah were not new converts. Meaning, they had been raised in the knowledge of God from a young age, and despite their displacement to Babylon, they still served the Lord faithfully. **verses 8-12**

These godly men were resolute in their decision to defy the king; Nebuchadnezzar's threat was meaningless and didn't faze them in the slightest. **verses 13-18**

Where did they get this immovable determination? These men knew writings of Moses and prior experience had taught them they could trust God. They were completely confident in their choice, even if God allowed them to die in the process.

Nebuchadnezzar was furious with their audacity to reject his demand and had them thrown into the fiery furnace. **verses 19-23**

He was astonished that the fire and heat did not kill them and that a fourth person was with them. **verses 24-25**

The king acknowledged a supernatural power – much greater than his own – had saved Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. **verses 26-30**

Not every life or death situation is going end in so-called "victory." **2 Corinthians 5:6-10**

### **THE TEMPLE TAX**

God instituted a special yearly tribute where every Israelite male, 20 years and older, was to give a half shekel as a ransom for his life. **Exodus 30:11-16**

This was an example of things to come when Jesus would pay for the sins of mankind and become a ransom for all. **Mark 10:35-45; 1 Timothy 2:5-6**



Peter was asked if Jesus would pay the temple tax. **Matthew 17:24**

As the Son of God, Jesus was under no obligation to pay this tribute. **verses 25-26**

Yet Jesus waived His privilege and instructed Peter to make payment. **verse 27**

## **GOD AND YOU**

Jesus showed His omnipresence in anticipating Peter's question.

Jesus didn't have wealth and could have ordered Judas to pay the tax but He asked Peter to take care of it instead.

As the Son of God, Jesus could have supernaturally materialized the money for Peter; the coin in the fish's mouth was the reward of Peter's obedience.

Jesus didn't instruct Peter to find a chest of gold and jewels. The single coin was just enough to pay the tax for Jesus and Peter.

Peter was successful because the Son of God was omnipotent and omniscient. It had nothing to do with luck!

Jesus proved that no situation is too great for Him and Peter learned that God will reward the effort we put toward our walk with Him.

***Walking with God is not a sprint; run the race with endurance.***