



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Teen Heroes of the Bible Series, Lesson 17

Lesson Title: Rack, Shack and Benny – Fireproof Faith

Take Home Point: When it's time to take a stand, lean on Jesus.

Warm-Up:

A friend of mine was very involved in drama during his high school years. During his junior year, he was selected to be the lead in a community theater production, a part for which he was perfectly suited. Unfortunately, it required him to act as though he had slept with a woman who was not his wife. As rehearsals began, he realized he could not play this part as it went against what he knew was God's truth. So he withdrew from the role and trusted God to keep him strong in his choice. His decision was not well received by the theater company or his friends, but he believed it was the right stand to take and was at peace about it. Many years later, he still knows it was the right thing to do.

Read: 2 Chronicles 20:17; Daniel 1 to 3; Romans 5:2

Observation (What happened?):

How did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego reach their position in the kingdom?

Why did they refuse to obey the king's command?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

How do you think these four young men kept their focus on God in the Babylonian king's court?

How did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego demonstrate they were willing to accept the consequences of their choice?

Insight:

So what kept those men focused on God in the midst of royal power, fascinating culture, a great compilation of human wisdom, and fear of the king? It was what they were taught and remembered as children prior to the Babylonian exile. It was the laws and values of God instilled from their youngest days by faithful parents and teachers. It is unlikely they received additional Hebrew religious education once they were in the palace, yet not even years of Babylonian training caused them to forget who and whose they were. So this is as much an account of their unnamed parents and teachers as it is of them. So, Shepherd, be encouraged. You may not see the fruit of your labors, but there will be fruit. The lessons you teach every week will come back in the lives of your small group members in ways you can't imagine. Pray for them and trust God to work through his word in his own way and in his own time. In heaven, you will have the joy of learning what was done in the name of Jesus Christ because of your faithfulness.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

How do you keep your focus on God in an ungodly environment?

In what situation are you privileged to take a stand for Christ regardless of circumstances?

Kingdom Quest year 2