



CELL GROUP MATERIAL

30 AUGUST 2026

30 AUGUST SERMON

I Will Not Bow

BROTHER BENJAMIN MATHEW

Raising Winners Series: I Will Not Bow

Based on Daniel chapters 2 & 3

Key Takeaways

- 1. The Kingdom of God Outlasts Every Kingdom of Man** While the kingdoms of this world grow progressively weaker over time, the kingdom of God goes from strength to strength and from glory to glory. It has no end, making it the most worthy investment of our lives.
 - 2. God Is Not Bound by Walls or Schedules** God is not confined to a church building, a Sunday service, or a prayer meeting. He is present with His people wherever they go throughout the week.
 - 3. Every Believer Has a Kingdom Role** Regardless of your profession or stage of life, God has placed you exactly where you are for a kingdom purpose. You are an ambassador for the kingdom of God in your school, workplace, and community.
 - 4. Remembering God's Faithfulness Fuels Courage** Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were able to refuse to bow because they remembered what God had already done for them. Recalling past faithfulness strengthens us to trust God in present trials.
 - 5. "Even If He Does Not" Is the Heart of True Faith** Real commitment to God is not contingent on receiving miracles. Genuine faith says, "Even if He does not deliver me the way I expect, I will still worship and serve Him."
 - 6. There Is Another in the Fire** God does not always remove us from difficulty, but He promises to be present with us in it. His presence in our trials breaks every chain and brings us out without the smell of smoke on us.
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Discussion Questions

Opening

1. Share about a time when you felt pressure from those around you to compromise something you believed in. How did you respond?
2. What is one thing God has done for you in the past that you find yourself returning to when life gets difficult?

Going Deeper

3. The sermon described how the kingdoms of this world grow weaker over time while the kingdom of God grows stronger. How does keeping this perspective change the way you approach your daily decisions, priorities, and goals?
4. The preacher said that "every believer is an ambassador for the kingdom of God" regardless of their job title or role. What does it look like practically for you to live as a kingdom ambassador in your specific context this week?
5. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego chose not to defend themselves before the king. The sermon suggested this was wise because they did not want to give themselves an opportunity to talk themselves into disobeying God. Can you think of situations in your own life where engaging in an argument has led you further away from what you knew was right? What can we learn from their example?
6. The sermon drew a powerful contrast between the kings of this world and the King of heaven. With earthly kings, you would die if you entered their courts uninvited. With Jesus, He died so that we could freely enter His courts. How does this truth shape the way you approach prayer and your relationship with God?
7. The preacher said, "If you cannot be faithful when the miracle does not happen, you do not love Jesus - you love miracles." How do you personally distinguish between seeking God and seeking what God can give you? What disciplines or habits help you keep that distinction clear?
8. The three young men came out of the furnace and did not even smell like smoke. Is there an area of your life where God has brought you through something difficult and the evidence of that trial is no longer visible on you? Take a moment to share that testimony if you are comfortable doing so.

Reflection Questions

9. What are the "statues" or idols in your world today - the things that pressure you to bow? These could be related to money, status, academic performance, body image, social acceptance, or something else entirely. How are you currently responding to that pressure?
10. The sermon emphasized the importance of remembering what God has done. What is one specific act of God's faithfulness in your life that you need to revisit and hold onto right now?

Practical Applications

This Week, Choose at Least One:

- **Keep a Faithfulness Journal.** Write down three to five specific things God has done for you in the past. Keep this list somewhere visible and refer to it when you face pressure or doubt.
 - **Identify Your Kingdom Role.** Spend time in prayer asking God to show you the specific kingdom purpose He has for you in your school, workplace, or neighbourhood. Write it down and share it with a trusted friend or cell group member.
 - **Practice the "Even If He Does Not" Prayer.** Bring a specific situation before God this week in which you have been waiting for a breakthrough. Tell Him honestly that even if He does not move in the way you expect, you will still praise and serve Him. Notice how this posture shifts your heart.
 - **Share a Testimony.** Identify someone in your life who needs encouragement. Share with them a specific story of how God brought you through a difficult season. Let your testimony become someone else's fuel for faith.
 - **Examine What You Are Investing In.** The sermon reminded us that the kingdom of God is the best investment because it has no end. Review how you are currently investing your time, money, and energy. Is there a reallocation that needs to happen to better reflect kingdom priorities?
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Closing Prayer Points

Pray together over the following:

- Courage to refuse to bow to the idols and pressures of this world
- Gratitude for the faithfulness God has already shown in your lives
- Boldness to live as ambassadors for the kingdom of God in every area of life
- Those in the cell who are currently in a "furnace" season, that they would experience the presence of God in the midst of it
- A fresh hunger for God that is not dependent on circumstances or miracles

Psalm 34:8 -- Taste and see that the Lord is good.