



The Three Holy Youth

Written By: Monica Abdou, St. Mary Church, Pompano Beach, FL

During the time when the Jews were taken captives in the land of Babylon, there lived three youth. These three youth are Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. They were given the Babylonian names of Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego. Daniel was also their friend. King Nebuchadnezzar told his servant to look for young men that had the ability to serve in his palace. Daniel and the three youth were chosen among these men. The King ordered them to eat of his delicacies and to drink of his wine. Daniel and the three youth refused and they wanted to keep their fast. They told the servant to test them for ten days and to see if they will be like all the other men. After the ten days, their appearance was better and fatter than all the other men who ate of the King's delicacies. So the servant took away their portion and gave them vegetables. One time, King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold whose height was 60 cubits and its width six cubits. The King ordered the people that everytime they hear



The Three Holy Youth

the sound of flutes and horns to fall down and worship the gold image that he set up. He said that whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.

So when the people heard the flutes and horns they fell down and worshipped the image. Everyone did except for



Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego. The King ordered them to be brought to him and he gave them another chance, but they refused. They told him “Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from your hand and from the fiery furnace.” The King was very angry, so he ordered the furnace to be seven times hotter than it usually is. Then his servants bound Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego and threw them in the furnace. Then King Nebuchadnezzar was very astonished and he asked his servants “Did we not only cast three men into the furnace?” They told him “Yes.” He said “I see four men walking freely and not hurt and the fourth is like the son of gods.” So they took them out and they were not harmed by the fire and the king promoted them. It was God who delivered them from the king’s hand and saved them. May their prayers be with us. Amen.

A Heart of Love

Romans 5:5 tells us that “the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit.”

Find your way through this heart.

