

August 17 Answers

- 1) Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah calmly and **respectfully** told Nebuchadnezzar that they would not worship his image (Dan 3:17–18). Their loyalty to God is inspiring, for they could have used any number of excuses to bow down to the image: “We’ll bow down, but we won’t **worship** in our hearts,” or “We’ll worship this one time, and then ask God to **forgive** us,” or “God will **excuse** us for obeying our king.” But they didn’t. They remained obedient to God in spite of the consequences. Their attitude is also inspiring. They expressed faith in God’s ability to save, but they didn’t **presume** to say that God would rescue them. This teaches us how true faith behaves: it **believes** what God says and **submits** to what God decides (Luke 22:42). When we live by this kind of faith, we testify to the gospel and bring glory to God’s name (Dan 3:28). Several months after the incident with the golden image, **Zedekiah** was back in Jerusalem. He was not alone; representatives from Edom, Moab, Ammon, Tyre and Sidon were also there, and they were plotting **rebellion**. God told Jeremiah to tell them to submit to Babylon’s rule. If they didn’t, God would use Nebuchadnezzar to destroy them. This teaches us that if we counsel others to resist authority, we’re actually counseling “rebellion against the LORD” (Jer 28:16). The only time we should resist authority is when we must obey **God** rather than man (Acts 5:29). In any other case, resistance equals rebellion!