

Sunday, February 5th, 2023

**Theme: When the foundations are being destroyed, what can the righteous do?**

**Topic: The righteous will keep trusting the Lord, even when circumstances worsen**

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**Texts :** Dan3: 12-18, 28-29

Actually, the DR Congo, especially the North Kivu and Goma are facing a situation of war and insecurity. The population must behave like Shadrack, Meshack, and Abednego in such a situation. The world needs people who have conviction, not from circumstances or difficult situations. What can we learn from these young people (Shadrack, Meshack, and Abednego)?

Our today's message will be focused on three points:

1. **The pressure to sin:** we face this kind of pressure every day. In the context of war, insecurity, and hunger in North Kivu and Goma it's easy to forget God and to look for help far from Him in order to satisfy our needs by stilling, putting confidence in army groups, local defense, or someone who promise to give us money or food, instead of putting our confidence in God.

When we look at Daniel and his friends, we see that they decided to choose integrity. They refused to bow before idols as the king ordered. (Daniel 3:5)

The pressure of Satan is permanent, he will come again and again to ask us if we will be ready to bow before him.

1. **The pressure of integrity:** when we choose integrity, we must be ready to pay the price as Shadrack, Meshack, and Abednego who had chosen not to bow before idols. Three things will happen when we choose integrity:
  - **Jealousy** from our colleagues (as the colleagues of Shadrack, Meshack, and Abednego informed the king that they refused to bow before idols.) When we choose integrity, problems will not come from far.
  - **Anger and rage** from our enemies (Daniel 3:13).
  - **Pressure day after day** (Daniel 3:15).
1. **The promise from God:** when we decide to stand in integrity, people will permanently ask us if our God is able to save us, as this had happened to Shadrack, Meshack, and Abednego (Daniel 3:15). We have willingly to take our cross and to pay the price, then the promise of God to protect us will be real in our lives.

The question to the population of North Kivu, Goma, and Ituri is: "Do you still believe that you have a God who can deliver you from your enemies in this period of war and insecurity?" (Daniel 3:17).

Dear congregation, if you are called to choose one of these two verses (**Isaiah 43, 2, Revelation 2,10**) do as Shadrack, Meshack, and Abednego. Choose God because He is the one who will choose a verse that fits every one of the situations in which we are going through.