



A John and Eileen Sala Prison and Teaching Ministry

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Little Lambs Inc.

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“The Bible is more modern than tomorrow morning’s news paper.” Billy Graham, Evangelist

Our newsletter devotion this month comes from the Book of Daniel. Daniel was a prophet of considerable standing in the annals of the Old Testament. Though only a displaced Jewish captive, Daniel endeared himself to the heathen King Nebuchadnezzar as a devout man of great wisdom.

The Book of Daniel includes several of the most memorable Old Testament miracles. The saga of three men, make that four, and their escape from the fiery furnace, and the latter account of God’s deliverance of Daniel from a den of ravenous lions are both highlighted in every children’s picture book Bible since forever, to the imagination and absolute delight of the five and six year old scholars.

But today, let’s examine the wild adventure of our three Jews in Dante’s inferno. Although that account is found in Chapter 3 of Daniel, we must look back to Chapter 2 to appreciate the story about to unfold. Only recently, Nebuchadnezzar had invaded and besieged the holy city, Jerusalem. Soon thereafter, Nebuchadnezzar began to have troubling dreams. Despite an exhaustive search amongst his own magicians, sorcerers, and other reprobates, the King could not find anyone to interpret those dreams. Until he happened upon Daniel, who came out of the royal tribe of Judah. Though fascinating, that episode is noted here only to introduce our three heroes, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. In appreciation for his wise counsel, Nebuchadnezzar had promoted Daniel and his three amigos to positions of authority and respect within the Babylonian regime.

That brings us to Chapter 3. In a fit of vanity and pride, King Nebuchadnezzar constructed an enormous golden image—presumably a statue of himself. And as we have all learned here in the 21st century, narcissism has no bounds of decency. To dedicate his giant replica, Nebuchadnezzar issued a kingdom-wide decree, if you will—that at the sound of certain music, everyone must fall down and *worship* the golden image. Any ne’er-do-well refusing to comply would face immediate death in the King’s fire pit.

ENTER STAGE RIGHT Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to the music from “Chariots of Fire.” You all know the rest of the story. When the King’s signature music began, our three Jews boldly refused to bow down and worship Nebuchadnezzar’s statue. They took a stand and it almost cost them their lives, as they boldly declared: **“...Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace...”** Dan 3:17 (KJV) Predictably, Nebuchadnezzar was furious and stubbornly refused to show mercy. **Our God is able...** That’s worth a Praise the Lord and Hallelujah shout for sure. *Or is it?* Buried in the drama of the moment are their continued sentiments: **“But if not...we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image...”** Daniel 3:18 But if not they cried! Has their faith sprung a leak? Have doubts and fears crept in? are they having second thoughts—but if not??

We are reminded of other Biblical accounts where unexpected doubts surfaced. Who can forget Zacharias’ response to the angel Gabriel’s announcement of the upcoming birth of a son to be called John. Paraphrasing, Zacharias could barely stutter “You’ve got to be kidding!?” Luke faithfully reports that Elizabeth was well-stricken in years. But somebody else was well-stricken in years that day. Zacharias. Dumb.

And what about Jesus’ own disciple, Thomas, the namesake of doubters. He said: **“...Except I shall see the print of the nails... I will not believe.”** John 20:25 Now that is real doubt. So maybe the faith of Messrs. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego had melted in the heat of the moment. **ABSOLUTELY NOT!!!** To the contrary, these men were declaring the very strongest kind of faith. Great faith. Theirs was an expression of utmost trust and confidence in God and in His plan for their lives. They were willing to let God be God, whatever the course, whatever the cost.

Of course as a culture, we have come a long way since the idolatry of Nebuchadnezzar’s statue. Nothing like that could ever happen today. We are much too modern and sophisticated—

BREAKING NEWS: “This just in from the Associated Press wire: February 11, 2024. Today the city of Los Angeles, California unveiled a new statue in the beautiful downtown plaza. The statue depicts the larger-than-life presence of the Los Angeles Lakers basketball legend, Kobe Bryant. The statue of Bryant is nineteen feet tall and weighs four thousand pounds...”

Wow!! Billy Graham was right again. We can only hope that this new Kobe Bryant statue includes kneeling cushions and handrails to allow the older, more devout worshippers, to tarry...

Blessings to all, Mike Rider Volunteer

Dear Little Lambs, Hi! I am writing to say how grateful I am to be doing your discipleship program. In Lesson 1 Psalm 119:105.."A lamp unto the feet and a light unto thy path." was powerful for me and I did not know exactly what it is saying or means. I have been looking into it and I believe "Lamp" is God's word / commandment, and light is Jesus Christ. My prayer is that God's favor in our lives helps us to be better. I have been making serious changes in my personal life in order to truly follow Jesus. I know Jesus has forgiven me, but I struggle with forgiving myself. I gave my life to Jesus on 7-16-1996, but there was no serious changes happening for me until 2017. I experienced a spiritual awakening within my soul. This is a quote I heard on T.B.N. "God does not expect us to be perfect, but Go does expect us to be honest." I look forward to doing the discipleship program and learning from them. God bless you all and I will keep you all in my prayers. MK, In.

Pastor John Sala, I'm TH. I am currently being held in a prison in Florida. I am aware that my incarceration is by the grace of God and that it was to save my life for the greater good of my ministry. I was an addict and had been struggling with addiction for over 30 years. I've since turned my life over to Jesus Christ. I was sentenced to 140 months (almost 12 years). I've only been in for 9 months. I'm fresh in but I've been a dedicated man of God since August 22, 2022. I study my bible daily but I want to go further, I want to be a part of the ministry. I know that is why God spared my life; for the spreading of his gospel to other people just like me. Please write me back, I just got done reading your story and it totally touched my heart. TM

Dear John and Eileen Sala, I want to thank you so much for having this Bible Course. I love it and it brings me closer to God. I also want to say I love you both very much and I thank God for you. I also love the little pictures I received. It makes me feel close to home. But most of all the birthday picture that you sent. It was the only card I received. Thank you for being there for me. It has really touched my heart and my life. I pray God blesses you so much more! Amen!!! RH

Dear Salas, I give thanks for the opportunity to learn the word of God with you. I firmly believe that in order to live a life of obedience to God, we must know and study the scriptures, they are the instructions given by God to us. They testify of Jesus Christ. Incarcerated as I am, but free in Christ, I have plenty of time to study the Word of God and I prefer to spend time growing in my knowledge of God than to be in front of the TV. My Lord and Savior Jesus gave his everything at the cross because he loved me before I even knew him. Even though after I'd failed him in a horrendous way, he has forgiven me and restored me. Even though I was unfaithful, he remained faithful. Now my life belongs to Jesus who paid a price, his blood shed at the cross, for me. I'm confident now that he who began a good work in me will carry it to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. I want and try every day to conduct myself in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, doing my best.

I am originally from Mexico City and according to the laws of this country, I will be deported on my release day, May17,2031; until then, I will prepare myself to the best of my ability with the help and guidance of the Holy Spirit and through Bible Studies like "Little Lambs School of the Bible" and others, so I can witness effectively to others while I am here and after my release about Jesus Christ and the good news of the Kingdom of God. Dear Salas, I want to be a letter written on your hearts, known and read by everyone. I want to show that I'm a letter from Christ, the result of your ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tables of stone but on the tablets of human hearts.

Dear Partners,

This will be a short letter. I am asking that you pray for me as I take care of a back problem.

Of course, all of our wonderful volunteers carry on as they have been trained to do. They are all equipped to do the work of this ministry and they do it well as you can see from all these letters.

Your servant,

Eileen Sala