THE GOOD STEWARD

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Introduction _____

I. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Babylonian captivity and divided kingdom _____

Key figures: Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego _____

II. THE KING'S CHALLENGE

Nebuchadnezzar's golden statue and worship decree _____

Demand: Worship or be cast into furnace _____

Political power vs. religious conviction _____

III. THE RESPONSE OF THE THREE MEN

Faith in God's ability, even if deliverance is not certain _____

Commitment to obedience regardless of consequences _____

"We will not serve your gods or worship the image" _____

IV. LESSONS ON FAITH AND OBEDIENCE

Walk by faith, not by sight - 2 Corinthians 5:7

God's power exceeds all our circumstances - Ephesians 3:20

Decide ahead to obey God in all situations

V. APPLICATION TO MODERN LIFE

Standing for faith may bring social or political pressure

Courage to confess faith publicly

Commitment to obedience as a lifestyle choice

VI. THE OUTCOME AND GOD'S GLORY

Miraculous deliverance from the fiery furnace

King Nebuchadnezzar glorifies God and promotes the men

God's power displayed through faithful obedience

VII. FINAL INVITATION AND COMMITMENT