

Daily Homily  
Fifth Week in Lent, Wednesday  
24 March 2021  
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What I love about Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego is their response to King Nebuchadnezzar... "If our God can save us from the white-hot furnace... may he save us! ... if not, still, we will not serve your god."

Now this is the spiritual life in this moment. The three men state that whatever God wills, is what God wills – they will take the will of God and serve Him in whatever way comes, even if it means serving him to the end. The three men are probably, totally thinking that they are going to be swallowed up by the flames and reduced to mere ash. However, God saves and they walk out of the furnace unscathed. Because of this, Nebuchadnezzar can exclaim, "Blessed is your God."

Jesus, however, is not doing so well. He is trying to free his people from the white-hot furnace of sin. But they only offer opposition and protest and questions. Jesus is the one who lives from the Father's will and what the Father wills is what Jesus lives.

The Father's will ... there is a freedom in living whatever comes along. There is a freedom in simply receiving whatever comes to us from God. So that in moments of adversity, difficulty, and even tragedy we know what to do and what the Father wants. So that in moments of joy, enlightenment, and triumph we know to give thanks and gratitude.

What are you willing to receive from the Father today as His will? This isn't about asking for anything and wanting anything or even needing anything ... but this is about receiving from God whatever God wills. Like Jesus open to receiving true disciples; like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego open to the end of their life or not; or like a white-hot furnace open for a miracle, be open and receive from God whatever God wills.