



MOMENTUM BUILDER

Kondo Simfukwe

“Is Jesus Most Supreme in my Life?”

Kondo Simfukwe challenges us from the example of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to stand up when the world says to bow and to say that no power, no pain, no pleasure, or no perk will cause us to bow down; Jesus is supreme!

MESSAGE OPENER:

Life or death was determined by the answer to a single question: are you a Christian? That was the question asked by an anti-Christian gunman who stormed into a classroom at Oregon’s Umpqua Community College on October 1, 2015.

Kortney Moore was inside the classroom. She told the Roseburg News-Review that the shooter ordered students to get on the ground—and then told them to stand up and state their religion.

“And they would stand up and he said, ‘Good, because you’re a Christian, you’re going to see God in just about one second,” Stacy Boylan said in a televised report. “And then he shot and killed them.”

Franklin Graham eloquently memorialized and reminded us that Christians are being persecuted around the world.

“The bold souls at Umpqua Community College who stood up to say they were followers of Jesus Christ were heinously gunned down with no mercy,” Graham wrote. “Jesus said, ‘If they hate you, remember they hated me before they hated you.’”

I cannot even begin to imagine the courage it took for our fellow believers to take a stand -- knowing that to do so -- would require the ultimate sacrifice.

This is a modern day fiery furnace and the choice to live for Jesus and even to die for Him is not a choice from the distant past; it’s a decision that is all-too-close to home. The choice to die for Jesus is one we hopefully never have to make, but the choice to live for Him and make Him most supreme in our daily lives is often much more difficult to make and a choice that each one of us are faced with.

<http://www.foxnews.com/opinion/2015/10/02/day-christians-were-martyred-on-american-soil.html>

READ: Daniel 3:1–30

WATCH: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yPp0LOaOcn4>

KEY POINTS:

Choosing to bow down could cost you your life

“They trusted in him and defied the kings command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God.” (Daniel 3:28)

Choosing to bow down will cost you the perks of position, protection, and pleasure.

The choice to give up our life might be a difficult one but the choice to give up our earthly privileges and pleasures is often much more difficult. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were not just willing to die, they were happy to give up all the earthy pleasures that bowing down would provide for them.

Only when you’ve determined that Jesus is enough will you be able to stand rather than bow.

Nothing can stop a generation of people who say, “Jesus is enough.” You can take everything away from them, but if Jesus is enough, nothing can stop a movement of people who say Jesus is “most” to them. What can you take from them? Only a deep love for and devotion to God could’ve allowed Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to say, “He will save us, but even if he doesn’t we still won’t bow.” He was enough.

CLOSING CHALLENGES:

Is Jesus enough? Is he your supreme—above all else? Consider the “music” that lures you to your greatest sinful pleasures...(phone, explicit conversations, entertainment, the need for a relationship...) Is Jesus the satisfier of your soul?

Determine today, as our culture rapidly changes and followers of Jesus become more and more strange, what you will say and how you will respond before the moment of decision. In your heart set apart Christ as Lord first, then be prepared to stand when you are asked to bow. (1 Peter 3:15)

Pray together standing with two other trusted friends who want to follow Jesus for three minutes each day that Jesus will be most supreme in your lives.

See more about Momentum Youth Conference at buildmomentum.org