

No. 13 What They Risked; How They Were Rewarded (Symposium)
 —Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah

[PLEASE NOTE: This talk includes an interview. Follow instructions in assignment letter]

JEHOVAH IS THE REWARDER (2 min.)

The apostle Peter abandoned his fishing nets to follow Jesus (w08 2/15 17 ¶4)

Peter later recalled what he had left behind and asked Jesus: 'What will there be for us?' (Mt 19:27)

What have you sacrificed to follow Jesus? Will Jehovah reward you?

This symposium is designed to strengthen your faith that Jehovah can and will reward you for your sacrifices

We will examine six courageous servants of God

In each part, take note of (1) what they risked, (2) how they were rewarded, and (3) the lesson for us

First, let us consider the courage of three Hebrews exiled in Babylon: Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah

WHAT DID THEY RISK? (2 min.)

They risked angering the king and losing a favored status [Read Daniel 1:11-13]

The Babylonians tried to assimilate them and shipwreck their faith (dp 34-36 ¶10-14)

Other youths and high officials may have pressured them, suggesting that the Hebrews' ability to succeed in Babylon was at stake

Yet, the three refused to be molded by that ungodly system

Their parents had likely inspired courage in them (w88 12/1 16 ¶3-4)

They later risked their lives when before a golden image (Da 3:12, 15, 18)

Even when given a chance to change their mind, they refused to give their allegiance to anyone but Jehovah

HOW WERE THEY REWARDED? (2 min.)

Jehovah rewarded them physically

They were healthier and better looking than their peers (Da 1:15)

They were saved from the fiery furnace [Read Daniel 3:27]

"Not even the smell of fire" remained on them

Jehovah rewarded them spiritually

They received "knowledge and insight" (Da 1:17)

They were used to teach the king a powerful lesson about the supremacy of Jehovah God (Da 3:28, 29)

WHAT IS THE LESSON FOR US? (3 min.)

Young ones, refuse to allow the world to shape your thinking

Because you are "foreigners and temporary residents" in this wicked world, you risk being ridiculed by your peers (1Pe 2:11)

In time, Jehovah may reward you by helping you gain the respect of classmates, teachers, and others (1Pe 2:12)

Your good conduct may even move some to study the Bible

Parents, inspire courage in your children

They will likely remain faithful, even when you are not present

Their faithfulness will be part of your reward

Young ones, be willing to forgo advantages and freedoms to remain politically neutral and devoted to Jehovah

Jehovah will reward you for your courage; you will have deep joy that comes from pleasing him (1Pe 4:12-14)

Jehovah will reward you with eternal life

How have youths in our area been rewarded for their courage? Let us speak to one of them

INTERVIEW (2 min.)

[Interview a youth who courageously endured ridicule or similar consequences for maintaining neutrality. Perhaps he or she refused to participate in a nationalistic ceremony or a patriotic holiday. Ask: (1) What were you willing to risk? (2) What helped you to be courageous? (3) How has Jehovah rewarded your action?]

IMITATE THEIR COURAGE! (1 min.)

Centuries after Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah lived, the apostle Paul evidently alluded to them as those who "quenched the force of fire" (Heb 11:34)

Jehovah had not forgotten them

As you imitate their courage, be assured that Jehovah will not forget you

He will reward you!

In the next part of this symposium, learn how two contemporaries of Paul also proved to be examples of courage

Brother _____ will now consider "What They Risked; How They Were Rewarded—Aquila and Priscilla"

TO BE COVERED IN 12 MINUTES