

# Daniel 3:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter.

## Analysis

The three men's response 'O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter' demonstrates remarkable courage and conviction. 'Not careful' (Aramaic: *la chashchin*, not anxious/worried) doesn't mean disrespectful but rather confident peace about the outcome. They don't need time to deliberate, strategize, or negotiate—the answer is clear because their allegiance is settled. This contrasts sharply with the Chaldeans' earlier panic when unable to interpret the dream. True faith produces confidence before hostile authority because ultimate trust rests in God rather than human favor.

## Historical Context

Ancient protocol demanded elaborate deference when addressing absolute monarchs. Speaking directly without extensive honorifics or anxious hedging was dangerous. The three men's straightforward response demonstrates extraordinary courage given Nebuchadnezzar's documented volatility and unlimited power. Refusing a king's direct command, especially after being given second chance, normally meant immediate execution. Their willingness to speak plainly despite fatal risk reveals faith that relativizes all human authority under God's sovereignty.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does settled conviction about ultimate allegiance produce peace and confidence when facing powerful opposition?
2. What does their immediate, clear answer teach about faith eliminating need for anxious deliberation when truth is at stake?

## Interlinear Text

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לְמַלְכֵּ	אָ	וְאָמַרְתִּ	יְהִ	נָגֵ	וְ	שְׁדַבֵּר	נִ	מִישָׁרְ	דִּיבְּרָ	שְׁדַבְּרָ	נִ	עָנֵ	וְ	
answered	Shadrach	Meshach		H0	and	Abednego		and said		to the king				
H6032	H7715	H4336			H5665		H560		H4430					
נְבוּכָדְנָזָר	רָ	לֹא	עַל	אָנָּ	חֲנָא	מִשְׁחָ	יְהִ	פְּתַחְ	מִ	דָּנֵ	הָ	פְּתַחְ	מִ	
O Nebuchadnezzar	are not	careful		we	thee in	this		matter						
H5020	H3809	H2818		H586	H5922	H1836		H6600						

לְבַתְּבוֹתָה:

to answer

H8421

## Additional Cross-References

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**Daniel 1:7** (Parallel theme): Unto whom the prince of the eunuchs gave names: for he gave unto Daniel the name of Belteshazzar; and to Hananiah, of Shadrach; and to Mishael, of Meshach; and to Azariah, of Abed-nego.

**Daniel 3:12** (Kingdom): There are certain Jews whom thou hast set over the affairs of the province of Babylon, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego; these men,

O king, have not regarded thee: they serve not thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

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