

## Daniel 5

Welcome to CHC! We are incredibly thankful you are here. It's a big deal to us that you got up this morning and decided to come. You are welcome here. God loves you and we do too.

We believe that we all have a next step. What is yours? We want to help you in that journey.

One of our main ways of doing this is through the loop. Our process for getting you committed and plugged in.

We are in the midst of walking through the book of Daniel. Daniel is giving us a first-hand account of what occurred when the Jews were overtaken by the Babylonians. They were taken to Babylon, and this is known as the Babylonian captivity for the Israelites.

Last week we learned about the fall and death of the king of Babylon...Nebuchadnezzar.

There is about 23 years that goes by between chapters 4 and 5. We are introduced to a new guy named, Belshazzar.

For time's sake...Belshazzar is believed to be the grandson of Nebuchadnezzar. His Father and Nebuchadnezzar's son-in-law was King Nabonidus. Nabonidus didn't really want to run the day-to-day operations, so he appointed his son as the Co-Manager.

So, for years of his life, Belshazzar witnessed his grandfather and father rule over Babylon.

We can read all about his history...He didn't have great role models as it relates to serving God.

So let's jump in and see what we can gain from him. All kinds of little truth nuggets we can grab.

**Daniel 5.1-4 | King Belshazzar held a great feast for a thousand of his nobles and drank wine in their presence. <sup>2</sup>Under the influence of the wine, Belshazzar gave orders to bring in the gold and silver vessels that his predecessor Nebuchadnezzar had taken from the temple in Jerusalem, so that the king and his nobles, wives, and concubines could drink from them. <sup>3</sup>So they brought in the gold vessels that had been taken from the temple, the house of God in Jerusalem, and the king and his nobles, wives, and concubines drank from them. <sup>4</sup>They drank the wine and praised their gods made of gold and silver, bronze, iron, wood, and stone.**

This is a reminder to all of us parents...**Who you are is what gets handed down.**

We want to hand down only the good. The sayings, the rules, the traditions...but our kids mimic what they see more than what they hear.

King Neb took the sacred vessels from the temple in Judah...but Belshazzar took it a step further.

The sacred cups the Jews used to worship...they used to get drunk. It was designed for worship, but they used it for something wicked. He's really mocking God at this point.

One thing to note...while this party was happening. The city of Babylon was being surrounded by an enemy. The Persians.

In his mind, he was safe...Safe from God. Safe from earthly enemies.

The city was actually surrounded by their enemy. Now, the city was well-fortified. Had a wall that was said to be 300 feet high and 80/90 feet wide.

He felt he was untouchable and invincible. He felt ahhhh yolo.

When it comes to sin...**you may have blast, but it won't last.**

Belshazzar is going to find out...Sin will take you further than you want to go. Keep you longer than you wanted to stay and cost you more than you wanted to pay.

**Numbers 32.23b | ...be sure your sin will catch up with you.**

So, he's just throwing a party defiling God and ignoring his enemy.

**Daniel 5.5-6 | <sup>5</sup>At that moment the fingers of a man's hand appeared and began writing on the plaster of the king's palace wall next to the lampstand. As the king watched the hand that was writing, <sup>6</sup>his face turned pale, and his thoughts so terrified him that he soiled himself and his knees knocked together.**

(If you have ever heard the saying, "The handwriting is on the wall," this is where it originated.)

Vs.7-16 | He freaks out. Calls everyone on his team to come and tell him what this says. The Queen comes in and says...calm down. There is this guy named Daniel who can help. So, he calls Daniel and asks him to interpret what the writing on the wall says. He promises him worldly riches and high-ranking positions in the Kingdom.

Daniels Response:

**Daniel 5.17-28 | <sup>17</sup>Then Daniel answered the king, "You may keep your gifts and give your rewards to someone else; however, I will read the inscription for the king and make the interpretation known to him. <sup>18</sup>Your Majesty, the Most High God gave sovereignty, greatness, glory, and majesty to your predecessor Nebuchadnezzar.**

<sup>19</sup> Because of the greatness he gave him, all peoples, nations, and languages were terrified and fearful of him. He killed anyone he wanted and kept alive anyone he wanted; he exalted anyone he wanted and humbled anyone he wanted. <sup>20</sup> But when his heart was exalted and his spirit became arrogant, he was deposed from his royal throne and his glory was taken from him. <sup>21</sup> He was driven away from people, his mind was like an animal's, he lived with the wild donkeys, he was fed grass like cattle, and his body was drenched with dew from the sky **until he acknowledged** that the Most High God is ruler over human kingdoms and sets anyone, he wants over them. <sup>22</sup> "But you his successor, Belshazzar, **have not humbled your heart**, even though you knew all this. <sup>23</sup> Instead, you have exalted yourself against the Lord of the heavens. The vessels from his house were brought to you, and as you and your nobles, wives, and concubines drank wine from them, you praised the gods made of silver and gold, bronze, iron, wood, and stone, which do not see or hear or understand. **But you have not glorified the God** who holds your life-breath in his hand and who controls the whole course of your life. <sup>24</sup> Therefore, he sent the hand, and this writing was inscribed.

Daniel was the one he turned to when he didn't know what to do. Have someone in your life that will tell you the truth.

Three things that Daniel pointed out in his life.

### **1. He didn't acknowledge God (Vs.21)**

Daniel reminded him that Grandpa NEB didn't acknowledge God, and some pretty bad times came upon him. Belshazzar was doing the same exact thing.

When we acknowledge Jesus as Lord, we are recognizing His supreme authority over everything in our lives. It's a personal commitment to follow Him, trust in His guidance, and live according to His teachings.

When we call Jesus our Lord, it means we prioritize His will over our own desires.

Here is the lesson...**There are consequences when we reject Christ.**

This is no small deal. When we refuse to acknowledge Christ, the ultimate and long-term consequence is eternal separation from God.

Let me give you a few supporting Scripture on this...

**Acts 4.12 | Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.**

**John 14.6 | Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the father except through me.**

**Acts 2.38 | Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.**

It is eternally imperative that we must acknowledge Christ.

## **2. He didn’t have a humble heart (Vs. 22)**

<sup>22</sup> “But you his successor, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart...

Daniel had to tell him...you’re prideful bro. You think you know everything. You do whatever you want and only think about yourself.

This is one of the most difficult sins to fight against. The Bible mentions pride so much because it’s such a big issue.

**Mark 7.20-23 | <sup>20</sup> And he said, “What comes out of a person is what defiles him. <sup>21</sup> For from within, out of people’s hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immoralities, thefts, murders, <sup>22</sup> adulteries, greed, evil actions, deceit, self-indulgence, envy, slander, pride, and foolishness. <sup>23</sup> All these evil things come from within and defile a person.”**

Pride is mentioned along with all of these “evil” things.

Pride is elevating ourselves to a place where we look down on others. Belshazzar even knew all of this but kept on doing whatever he wanted.

It’s that mindset, If it feels good, do it...Never allow arrogance/pride to deceive you into thinking you can dishonor God and get away with it.

God is looking for humility.

**Rick Warren | Humility is not thinking less of yourself, its thinking of yourself less.”**

**CS Lewis – “It takes simplicity and humility to worship God acceptably.”**

Humility means I’m preoccupied with Jesus. Humility is the key to intimacy with God.

When we humble ourselves, we leave room for God to fill in the gaps.

Humility matters. The 3<sup>rd</sup> thing Belshazzar didn’t do.

## **3. He didn’t bring God glory (Vs. 23b)**

...But you have not glorified the God who holds your life-breath in his hand and who controls the whole course of your life.

You've been living for yourself. Life has been all about you. Your choices and decisions have been made to bring you the most comfort.

Daniel is telling him...The God who holds your life in his hands...you aren't doing anything to bring Him glory.

God reminds us often about this.

**1 Corinthians 10.31 | <sup>31</sup> So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God.**

Here is our excuse...I'm not good enough. I'm not smart enough. I've got too much background.

Let me tell you...that is exactly what brings God the most glory. When he can take a loser like me, who finally gets it and says Lord use me...when we do that, He can show off His power.

**Matthew 5.16 | <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven**

Jesus clearly commands that the goal of our lives should be to behave so that God gets the glory. Live so that men will see your life and give your Father in heaven glory, not you.

So, it should be very clear that glorifying God is not merely an act of worship on Sunday. It is a peculiar kind of living. It's not just about avoiding sin...but engaging in good deeds.

Daniel points out these things Belshazzar hasn't done...and then he tells him the writing on the wall.

**Daniel 5.25-28 | <sup>25</sup> "This is the writing that was inscribed: Mene, Mene, Tekel, and Parsin.**

While studying this I had to laugh a little. These people are having a party and then all of a sudden, this hand comes out and starts writing words they have no idea what it says.

Its reminded me of what happens almost on a weekly basis when my ms/hs daughter's friends come over. They have a language that I have no idea what they are saying.

I did a little research...this has nothing to do with the sermon btw...

**Rizz**  
**Aura Points**  
**No Cap**  
**Demure**

Moving on --- Daniel starts telling him what all this means.

**<sup>26</sup> This is the interpretation of the message: ‘Mene’ means that God has numbered the days of your kingdom and brought it to an end. <sup>27</sup> ‘Tekel’ means that you have been weighed on the balance and found deficient. <sup>28</sup> ‘Peres’ means that your kingdom has been divided and given to the Medes and Persians.”**

These words mean - Numbered, Weighed, Divided

I want to just spend a few minutes here on this middle word...Tekel.

You’ve been weighed on the scales and found wanting or lacking.

I always tell the teams I coach...there are three things in life who will never lie to you, The Bible, game-film, and the mirror...but I guess I need to add a fourth...the scale.

Some of us in here are afraid of the scale. We are afraid of what it reveals about us.

God is telling Belshazzar that when weighed, there are some things lacking in his life.

How does God weigh us?

The Bible says in **Proverbs 21.2 | All a person’s ways seem right to him, but the Lord weighs hearts.**

The heart is a really big deal and here is why...it’s the source for everything in your life.

**Proverbs 4.23 | Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it. (NIV)**

All of your decisions and choices and feelings and struggles...all flow from your heart.

Conclusion:

As we close our time together today...with your heart on the scale, where are you lacking?

Daniel had to tell the King the areas his heart was missing the mark. It’s tough to hear and admit.

## **Where am I lacking?**

Am I acknowledging God? (good times He gets praise, bad times I ask what He's teaching)

Am I a humble person? (good times are because of me, bad times are blamed on others)

Am I bringing and giving God glory? (good deed being done, bad deeds being repented over)

The world tells us, and our natural instinct is what? Follow your heart. These Babylonians kings followed their heart and look where it got them.

**Colossians 3.1 | Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.**

**Don't follow your heart, set your heart.**

Maybe this morning your heart is being weighed on the scale and the scale is showing you that you do not have a personal relationship with Jesus. The thing that is lacking is a relationship.

You can set your heart on the right path today...*Salvation prayer*

Maybe this morning you've realized some areas where your heart is lacking, and you need to repent.