

“The Handwriting On the Wall”

Daniel 5:1-31

The Big Idea:

God's people may not always be invited to the party, but we must be ready when invited into the problem. (Daniel 5:1-12)

Life Lessons from Daniel 5

1. The world will either _____ trouble and forget God or defiantly _____ at Him. (Daniel 5:1-4)

2. God _____ those that are _____ in His hands to reach the _____. (Daniel 5:5-12)

3. Speaking the truth in love may be _____ for us, but not speaking the truth in love will be more _____ to those to whom it needs to be spoken. (Daniel 5:13-31)

Conclusion:

Just as God humbled proud kings, he can do the same to us. These two chapters show us that our place is at his feet in obedience, submission, and gratitude. They teach us as clearly as anything could the First Rule of the Spiritual Life: He is God and we are not, and that is a good thing because He does a much better job of not only running the universe but running our individual lives!

Daniel – Unshakeable (Study Guide)

Context of Daniel 5:

30 years have passed since Nebuchadnezzar's insanity, 24 years since his death. Nabonidus is king. His son, Belshazzar, is co-king, and in charge of the nation. Nabonidus and one-half of the army has been defeated and vanquished. Babylon is now surrounded by the Medes and Persians ready to take the great city down. Daniel is now about 80 years old during the time of these events.

1. When was the last time you were really scared and what was it that you were afraid of?

Read Daniel 5:1-31

2. In what ways were Belshazzar and his grandfather Nebuchadnezzar alike?

3. What was Belshazzar's great mistake? (see Daniel 5:22)

Why is that so important to God?

4. Daniel wasn't invited to the party, but we read that he was invited into the problem? How had he prepared himself in the years past for a situation like this?

5. What are some of the warning signs that our culture has become just like Babylon? What are the consequences? (See the next passage below for how we are to deal with the sins permeating our culture so that we aren't destroyed by them.)

Read Ephesians 6:10-20

6. How does this passage speak to being ready to live for Jesus in difficult times? How do the different pieces of armor protect and prepare us for difficult times? Take a few minutes to go over each of the pieces of armor and discuss what it looks like to wear each of these on a daily basis.