

HOPE THAT MOTIVATES FAITHFULNESS
Guard against the deceitfulness and defiance of pride
Daniel 5
Ken Lewis

1. God suddenly interrupts Belshazzar's great feast (5:1-17).

- a. Pride creates in us deceitful thinking that says, "I can get away with it."

Sinclair Ferguson says to us, "It is a reminder that we dare not presume upon the grace which God has shown to others. To know that God is gracious and yet not to turn from our sin in the light of that grace is to fall under His righteous judgment."

Galatians 6:7-8

7 Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. 8 For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.

- b. Pride thinks that God does not see and hear what goes on behind closed doors!

Luke 12:2-3

2 Nothing is covered up that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. 3 Therefore whatever you have said in the dark shall be heard in the light, and what you have whispered in private rooms shall be proclaimed on the housetops.

Sin will take you farther than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay, and cost you more than you want to pay.

2. Daniel boldly rebukes Belshazzar for his prideful defiance of God (5:18-23).

- a. Belshazzar is reminded of the consequences of pride (vv. 18-21).
b. Belshazzar did not humble his heart in light of what he knew (vv. 22-24).

> Belshazzar is expressing the innate defiance of God that dwells deep within every human heart.

Rom. 1:21

21 For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

- c. Belshazzar exalted himself against the Lord of heaven (vv. 2-3, 23a).
d. Belshazzar worshiped worthless idols instead of honoring God (vv. 4, 23b).

3. Daniel interprets God's message of judgment (5:24-28)

- a. It is a message from God (vv. 24-25).
b. It is a message of judgment (vv. 26-28).
 ▪ Your number is up (v. 26)

Proverbs 29:1

He who is often reproved, yet stiffens his neck, will suddenly be broken beyond healing.

- You failed to measure up to God's standard of righteousness (v. 27).
 - Our lives too will be measured on some "scales" and all of will be found wanting, unless Christ's righteousness is imputed to us.

Romans 4:5-8

5 And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, 6 just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works: 7 "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; 8 blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin."

- Your kingdom will be taken away and given to another (v. 28).

Daniel 4:17, 25, 32

" . . . till you know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will."

4. Daniel is honored and Belshazzar is killed (5:29-31)