

The Hand of God (Daniel 5)

In Daniel 5, we read a cautionary account as relevant as ever. Each of us has a tendency to trust in ourselves instead of God. This false sense of independence blinds us and sets us up for disaster. But, there is hope to be found in surrendering to a God who can be trusted with everything.

1. The writing is on the wall

- mockery of God is a dangerous game to play (Gal. 6:7)
- blasphemy is just as possible for us as it was for Belshazzar
- Beware of the fickleness of popularity & riches

2. Like father like son

3. In the hand of God

- We overestimate our power & control; we can do nothing w/o God's allowance
- God's hand can bring judgment, but it also brings great mercy

QUESTIONS (Pray, read the passage and pick 4-5 questions to discuss. Trust the Holy Spirit to guide.)

1. Read Daniel 5:1-6. Why are Belshazzar's actions so blasphemous? What statement is he making?
2. Do you or I ever misuse something sacred for our own purposes or pleasure? Can you think of an example?
3. Daniel endured a rollercoaster of popularity & persecution. How are the opinions of others fickle, and the power & riches of this world fleeting? Any examples?
4. Belshazzar should have learned from his grandfather Nebuchadnezzar's example - his fall from grace and his restoration. What are some ways we ignore clear warnings around us and fall into the same trap of pride?
5. God's hand can bring judgment, but it also can bring incredible comfort. Who needs to be worried about the judgment of God? Should Jesus followers be scared of God's hand?
6. Read Daniel 5:22-23. Consider what it means that our breath and all our ways are in the hand of God. How does this bring peace to your heart?