

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

THE WRITING IS ON THE WALL

DANIEL 5:1-31

MARCH 13, 2022

DISCUSSION 1: DISTORTED VIEW

1. As the narrative switches from king Nebuchadnezzar to Belshazzar, what were some of the primary lessons God taught Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 1–4?
2. What are some of the indications in the narrative of Daniel 5 that Belshazzar has not learned or received these lessons?
3. What was the offense or sin committed in 5:2-4 that led to the judgment and handwriting on the wall?

DISCUSSION 2: SEEING OURSELVES RIGHTLY

1. One of the sins of both Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar indicating their spiritual callousness was a distorted view of self. What are symptoms in our own life of a distorted view of ourselves?
2. Read James 1:22-24 and Hebrews 3:12-13. How do we read the Bible in such a way that helps us see honestly who we are, our sin, what we're hiding or carrying, and what our struggles are? What are ways we might read the Bible and yet not allow it to do this good work of exposing or revealing us to ourselves?
3. Are there any things going in your heart—a temptation, fear, doubt, hurt, burden, disappointment, etc.—that you've been hiding from yourself and/or God because you don't want to face it or deal with it? Why is it better to be honest about these things and bring them to God (and fellow believers) rather than hiding, suppressing, or justifying them?
4. God often brings warnings enter our life when we are straying or sinning because He loves us and wants our best. These warnings are often connected to passages and teaching in Scripture that He brings to our attention. What are ways we might ignore, dismiss, or reject God's warnings? How should we respond to these warnings from God?
5. Can you recall any examples from your walk with God where you knew He was giving you warnings or trying to show you something but you didn't want to see or admit it (at least not right away)? What did that look like for you to not heed the warning right away? What were some results? How did God still use that for good in your life and even help you be more attentive to His Word and warnings today?

DISCUSSION 3: SEEING GOD RIGHTLY

1. How might a distorted view of self and a distorted view of God relate?
2. What might be some indications or symptoms in our life of a low view of God?
3. Can you identify any common thoughts about God that are wrong but you're tempted to believe on a regular basis? (For example, maybe you tend to see God as angry and unhappy with you for any failures, or maybe you see God as distant and detached from our everyday details of life.) What are some of the consequences, effects, or fruit of those thoughts about God in your life?
4. How does thinking rightly about God, seeing Him clearly in Scripture, and understanding His bigness and nearness in your life help us fight against spiritual callousness?
5. What is one thing you can do this week to think rightly and more regularly about God?

RESOURCES ON DANIEL

- [Daniel commentary by Iain Duguid](#)
- The Bible Project's overview of Daniel, found at bibleproject.com or on [Youtube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8111111111). See also their video on "[Exile.](#)"
- ESV.org's "[Introduction to Daniel.](#)"
- "[Introduction to Daniel](#)" at thegospelcoalition.org.
- "[6 Insights You Didn't Notice in the Book of Daniel](#)" at crosswalk.com
- [ESV Scripture Journal: Daniel](#)