

**Message Notes | Daniel**  
**Part 5: Handwriting on the Wall**  
Daniel 5

- warning signs that you're going the wrong way
- the party got way out of hand - **vs. 1-4**

**Warning Sign #1:**

**Treating \_\_\_\_\_ things as \_\_\_\_\_ things.**

- the handwriting on the wall - **vs. 5-9**

**Warning Sign #2:**

**Depending on " \_\_\_\_\_ " who lack true \_\_\_\_\_.**

- Belshazzar "knew all this" but still didn't act - **vs. 10-22**

**Warning Sign #3:**

**Believing you're \_\_\_\_\_  
what others have \_\_\_\_\_.**

- his life and ways were in God's hand - **vs. 23-31**

**#4 God showed his \_\_\_\_\_ at the \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Group Questions | Daniel**  
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Daniel 5

1. Share a time when there was some uncertainty in your life about which way you should go or what you should do. How did it turn out?
2. **Read Daniel 5:1-4.** The account of Belshazzar's party gives a very obvious example of treating holy things as common things. What are some holy things that culture treats as common?

Are there any holy things that culture still treats as holy?

3. When Belshazzar saw the handwriting on the wall, he turned to wise men who did not fear the Lord. List some of the influencers in your life who might be wise, but lack godly wisdom.

How can you tell if a faithless influencer is negatively affecting your faith?

4. **Read Daniel 5:18-22.** Belshazzar was familiar with what happened to Nebuchadnezzar, but he thought he was immune to the same downfall. What danger is there in thinking that you're immune to a certain sin?

5. **Read Daniel 5:23.** What was true of Belshazzar is true of you: "God holds in his hand your life and all your ways." In what way is this truth a warning for us today?

When you consider that statement in view of what Jesus did, how does your perspective of that truth change?

6. Of the three warning signs we found in Daniel 5, which one deserves the most attention from you this week?

How can you grow in this area, and how can this group help?

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**Warning Sign #1:**

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- the handwriting on the wall - **vs. 5-9**

**Warning Sign #2:**

**Depending on "wise men" who lack true wisdom.**

- Belshazzar "knew all this" but still didn't act - **vs. 10-22**

**Warning Sign #3:**

**Believing you're immune to what others have fallen to.**

- his life and ways were in God's hand- **vs. 23-31**

**#4 God showed his hand at the cross.**

## Bible Reading for Today

### Daniel 5

Belshazzar the king held a great feast for a thousand of his nobles, and he was drinking wine in the presence of the thousand. <sup>2</sup> While he tasted the wine, Belshazzar gave orders to bring the gold and silver vessels which his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the temple which was in Jerusalem, so that the king and his nobles, his wives, and his concubines could drink out of them. <sup>3</sup> Then they brought the gold vessels that had been taken out of the temple, the house of God which was in Jerusalem; and the king and his nobles, his wives, and his concubines drank out of them. <sup>4</sup> They drank the wine and praised the gods of gold and silver, of bronze, iron, wood, and stone.

<sup>5</sup> Suddenly the fingers of a human hand emerged and began writing opposite the lampstand on the plaster of the wall of the king's palace, and the king saw the back of the hand that did the writing. <sup>6</sup> Then the king's face became pale and his thoughts alarmed him, and his hip joints loosened and his knees began knocking together. <sup>7</sup> The king called aloud to bring in the sorcerers, the Chaldeans, and the diviners. The king began speaking and said to the wise men of Babylon, "Anyone who can read this inscription and explain its interpretation to me shall be clothed with purple and have a necklace of gold around his neck, and have authority as third ruler in the kingdom." <sup>8</sup> Then all the king's wise men came in, but they could not read the inscription or make known its interpretation to the king. <sup>9</sup> Then King Belshazzar was greatly alarmed, his face grew even more pale, and his nobles were perplexed.