

***LEARNING FROM OTHERS'  
MISFORTUNES***

***Daniel 5:17-23, 30-31***

**Woodland Park  
Church of Christ**

**27 May 2018**

# BACKDROP

- Many times we witness others make some colossal mistakes and errors.
  - Deleterious impact of drinking
  - Debilitating effect of reckless spending
  - Destructive outcomes caused by dropping out of school
  - Devilish consequences of disregarding God

# BACKDROP

- It would seem that at some point people would learn as others experience the same fate one after another.
- Sometimes we see generational misgivings and atrocities.
- From a personal perspective, I saw the impact of certain behavior early in life.
- No one is immune from certain laws and rules.
- Certain consequences will not be waived or relaxed – they will happen.

- Today's lesson actually begins when Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar's father, besieged (subdued) Judah and took back some of the articles (gold and silver) of the house of God.

### **Daniel 1:1-2**

- Articles were placed in the treasure house of Nebuchadnezzar's so-called god in Shinar. **Daniel 1:2**
- Belshazzar decides to have a great feast for 1,000 of his lords.

### **Daniel 5:1**

- Belshazzar gave command to bring in the gold and silver vessels taken from the temple in Jerusalem, so he, his lords, wives and concubines might drink from them. **Daniel 5:2**
- The king and his party drank wine and praised the gods of gold and silver, bronze and iron, wood and stone. **Daniel 5:4**

While they were living it up and  
having the time of their lives, guess  
who shows up . . .

. . . the irrepressible, indefatigable  
hand of God!!

*In the same hour the fingers of a man's hand appeared and wrote opposite the lampstand on the plaster of the wall of the king's palace and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote. Then the king's countenance changed, his thoughts troubled him, so that the joint of his hips were loosened and his knees knocked against each other.*

**Daniel 5:5–6**

The king offered gifts of purple clothing, a gold chain and political power (3<sup>rd</sup> in command) to the person who could read and provide the meaning of the writing on the wall.

**Daniel 5:7**

The king's "wise" men (astrologers and soothsayers) proved to be worthless in reading and understanding the writing.

**Daniel 5:8**

But old faithful, reliable Daniel is summoned yet again, as the queen remembered there was a man in whom dwelled the Spirit of God, who had interpreted dreams of the king's father, Nebuchadnezzar. **See Daniel 5:10-12**

# POINT 1

## Remember Who and What Have Always Worked

- Stick with the faithful and reliable
- When it was all said and done, the Chaldeans, the astrologers and soothsayers were proven once again to be a bunch of charlatans
- Only one man in the kingdom had established himself able to truly interpret dreams, and it was **by the will of God.**



- Sometimes we disregard what has always worked and has gotten us where we are and then suffer ignominiously.
- I witnessed teammates drop faithful girlfriends once they moved up NFL draft boards, only to have the subsequent relationships blow up.
- Children jettison the beneficial counsel and advice of godly parents only to experience the pain of unfulfilled dreams and hard times.

# GOD IS ALWAYS FAITHFUL

**When all else fails, God will be there!**

- *Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.*

**Psalm 90:1**

- *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.*

**Hebrews 13:8**

- *The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*

**II Peter 3:9**

## **POINT 2**

# **Learn from the Failures of Others**

Recall from Nebuchadnezzar's second dream that he was driven from the palace to the fields to eat, live and behave as a wild animal until he humbled himself and regarded God. **See Daniel 4:28-37; 5:20-21**

The interesting point is Belshazzar witnessed all that happened to his father, yet he did not humble himself and revere God. **Daniel 5:22**

**Sadly, however, many times we see the horrific experiences of others, but fail to fully heed the warning.**

- Poor study habits
- Alcohol and Drug use
- Not adequately taking care of our bodies
- Failure to properly train and discipline our children
- Totally disregarding God

Several of my younger siblings often express how big a blessing I was.

They often remark that I saved them from a lot of agony.

They saw the pain that my indiscretions and contrariness got me.

**The Bible is replete with examples of what happens when people disregard God and his principles.**

- Babylonian captivity is the consequence of Judah's disregard for God's authority and refusal to obey him.
- Small country of Ai defeated Israel.

**Joshua 7:1-5**

- Ananais & Sapphira. **Acts 5:1-11**
- Experiences of Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar



# Lord's Invitation Extended to All

- **Be added to the Lord's body**

Hear the gospel (**Romans 10:17**)

Believe (**Hebrews 11:6, Acts 15:7**)

Repent (**Acts 2:38**)

Confess (**Romans 10:10**)

Be baptized for the remission of sin  
(**Acts 2:38**) **or**



## Lord's Invitation (cont'd)

- **Be reconciled unto the Lord** (I John 1:8-9); or
- **Desire prayer** (James 5:16).

*May GOD'S richest blessings be yours!*