

Advancing through Testing IV

“The Pride test” *Daniel 5*

There is no advancing without testing. You will be tested, before, during and after your season of advancing.

Testing is called **temptation** from the satanic side, **proving** from the divine side, and **testing** from the human side.

No matter what conditions arise, followers of Jesus are called to find an opportunity to advance the kingdom of God in perilous times.

Will you mortify and kill pride when you have success and continue to speak truth?

Will you stay humble when you are promoted?

Daniel 5:25 And this is the writing that was written, MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN. ²⁶ This is the interpretation of the thing: MENE; God hath numbered thy kingdom and finished it. ²⁷ TEKEL; Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting. ²⁸ PERES; **Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.**

Will you continue to use Godly wisdom, gifts, and grace to interpret hard sayings?

Will you speak truth in intimidating spaces?

I

The c**elebration** banquet was to honor a King.

Belshazzar had no regard for men.

Belshazzar had no regard for God.

KJV ***Daniel 5:2*** Belshazzar, whiles he tasted the wine, commanded **to bring the golden and silver vessels which his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the temple which was in Jerusalem**; that the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, might drink therein.

Belshazzar decided to insult the Most High God, even though he knew the history of Nebuchadnezzar. ***Daniel 4***

- *“One thing I’ve learned from history, is we don’t learn from history!”* La Fayette Scales

II

The c**onfusion** was because of God’s e**nough** l**ine**.

KJV ***Daniel 5:5*** In the same hour came forth **fingers of a man's hand**, and wrote over against the candlestick upon the plaister of the wall of the king's palace: and **the king saw the part of the hand** that wrote.

The fingers of a man’s hand is the *authority of God*.

All willful sin, wickedness and acts of sacrilege a**ttracts** the intervention of God.

Where there is a repentant heart God brings g**race**.

Where there is an unrepentant heart God brings **judgment**.

- All sin is an offense against God's **holiness**.
- Rebellion is an offense against God's **authority**.

III

The **consequence** for Belshazzar actions was a judgment on the kingdom.

Belshazzar's moral and spiritual character did not measure up to the standard of God's righteousness, so he was rejected.

"By Him [God] deeds are weighed (*1 Samuel 2:3*).

NRSV 1 Samuel 2:3 Talk no more so very proudly, let not arrogance come from your mouth; **for the LORD is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed.**

There is a fine line between God's **patience** and God's **wrath**.

KJV Jeremiah 17:10 I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even **to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.**

- There are **wards** and **consequences** in our kingdom.

IV

The c**onclusion** was Daniel was rewarded, advanced, and promoted.

KJV ***Daniel 5:29*** Then commanded Belshazzar, and they clothed Daniel with **scarlet, and put a chain of gold about his neck, and made a proclamation concerning him, that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom.**

Some people have resources but no authority.

Some people have authority but no resources.

Daniel received promotion, resources, and authority.

- Pride will cause you to go from celebration to confusion quickly.
- Kingdoms will rise and fall suddenly.
- Learn from history!!!!
- When promotion and advancement come, *stay under His hand*, so His finger doesn't have to *point you out*!

Advance through testing.

*Rhema Christian Center
Bishop La Fayette Scales
Saturday & Sunday, March 18 & 19, 2023
9:30 a.m.*