

November 27-28, 2021

Title: The Book of Daniel 4-6: Arrogance Exposed Pt 2, "The Wishing and Wanting of Willful Sin"
– Daniel 5:1-30

Big Idea: Willful sin leaves you wishing, weighed and wanting – so repent and believe!

What in the message stood out to you?

Read Daniel 5. What questions do you have?

1. God will judge willful sin

Read Daniel 5:18-23 again. What did God do in the life of Nebuchadnezzar? What should Belshazzar have learned from it?

In what ways do you see spiritual values pass down (or not) through generations?

Based on verses 22-23, what are the characteristics of Belshazzar's "willful" sin against God?

Read Hebrews 10:26-27. What are the characteristics of "willful" or "deliberate" sin in this passage? What is God's reaction to it?

Read 1 Peter 5:2. The word for "willingly" in this passage is the same word translated "deliberately" in Hebrews 10:26. In 1 Peter 5:2, it is contrasted with "under compulsion." How would you describe the difference between doing something "willingly" and doing something "under compulsion?" How does this relate to the sin in our lives? (see Romans 7:15-25).

Belshazzar was guilty of willful arrogance in the sense that he believed his way was better than God's way (see Daniel 5:22-23). In what way do you see willful arrogance in the world today?

He was also guilty of willful blasphemy in the sense that he misused what God considered sacred (the "sacred vessels" in Daniel 5:23a). What are some of God's gifts that are misused in the world today?

Finally, he was guilty of willful idolatry in the sense that he gave credit to someone or something other than God for the blessings in his life, and he valued those blessings over God Himself (see Daniel 5:23b). In what ways do you struggle with idolatry in your own life?

2. Willful sin leaves you wishing for more

John Piper once wrote, "The power of sin is in what it promises." What do you think he means by that?

What are some of the promises that sin makes? Does sin keep its promises? Why or why not?

In what ways has God taught you that life apart from him is empty and unsatisfying?

God stopped the party in its tracks with the miracle of the handwriting on the wall. What kinds of things have you experienced from God that stopped you (or someone you know) in your tracks?

When you feel God step into your life as Belshazzar did, how do you usually respond?

3. Willful sin leaves you weighed and wanting

In what kinds of situations do you usually hear people say, "I saw the handwriting on the wall?"

Read Daniel 5:26-28. What is Daniel's interpretation of the writing on the wall? What do you think it means to be "weighed in the balances and found wanting?"

Based on Hebrews 10:26-27 and 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9, what is the writing on the wall for sinful people who don't repent?

4. Repent and believe!

When God brings us up short, as He did the people in Daniel 5, what is our best response?

How would you describe your relationship to the sin in your life?

How would you describe your relationship to Jesus?

Read Romans 3:23-25 and Romans 6:23. Based on these passages, what is remedy for our willful sin?

Do you have any arrogance, blasphemy or idolatry that you need to repent of?

Oneness & Witness Takeaways:

- Repent of all sin in your life
- Believe that following and obeying Jesus is better than sin.