



Over the last two weeks, we've taken an up-close look at King Nebuchadnezzar's rise and fall. We've seen how God carried out judgment against Nebuchadnezzar for his pride and then how God restored him to the throne. This experience of God's judgment changed Nebuchadnezzar's heart and led him to praise God and give Him the glory He alone deserves. By the time we get to Daniel 5, Nebuchadnezzar's son, Belshazzar, is in charge. What follows is a tragic story of not learning from the sins of his father. Daniel 5 could be summed up as a lesson Belshazzar should have learned from the sins of another but didn't, and he eventually paid the price.

Throughout this series, our subtitle has been: "10 Commitments to Make When Life Closes In." Today's commitment will be very personal because it calls us to reflect on the lives of our friends, family, and coworkers. Today's commitment is: "I Will Not Repeat the Sins of Others."

SCRIPTURE: Daniel 5

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Looking back at your sermon notes, what encouraged or challenged you the most?
2. What similarities do you see between the lives of King Nebuchadnezzar and King Belshazzar?
3. It's easy for us to look at Belshazzar, shake our heads, and say he should've known better, but we often live the same way if we're honest. How would this story be told if it occurred today?
4. How would you summarize the theme or big idea of the sermon? How have you seen this theme play out in your life, family, or workplace?
5. Sin is taking what God has set apart for His purposes and using it for your own. How do we see this happen with Belshazzar? How does this play itself out in our lives when it comes to our talents, our body, and our money?
6. What does the sermon passage reveal about God and what He wants you to believe, do, or resist? What would the results be in your life if you ignored or obeyed these matters?
7. Is there anything you should praise God for or confess to Him as a result of the sermon?
8. What's one personal takeaway you can focus on applying in your life this week?