



HUMBLING THE PROUD AND EXALTING THE HUMBLE

If you have a pattern of having someone share their *Story of Faith* (life before Jesus, encountering Jesus, life since/lately with Jesus) and/or sharing *Evidences of God's grace*, begin with that, followed by a time of thankful prayer for Christ's work in the individual's life/the grace in your lives.

OPENING COMMENT

Even though King Belshazzar knew of King Nebuchadnezzar's experiences with Yahweh he still persisted in his arrogance and rebellion. Why? Yet through his rebellion the unfolding of God's ultimate plan of salvation was moved forward.

READ THE TEXT: Daniel 5:1-31

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Daniel continues to provide hope to the exiles in Babylon by reiterating the Sovereign will of God over Kings and Kingdoms. how does this truth comfort you?
2. God's sovereignty can challenge some deep seeded feelings about control or perceived injustice in the world. Is this true for you? If so, in what areas do you find God's sovereignty most challenging?
3. Daniels foundation of trust in the sovereignty of God is God's faithful character through the history of the Jewish people (First through Abraham in Genesis 15, and



then through Isaiah and Jeremiah). How has God proven to be sovereign in your life circumstances? Do we have the eyes to see when and how God is at work?

4. Our struggle is in attempting to dethrone God because we arrogantly think we know better. How might we start to submit our wills and ideas to God in humility?
5. Culturally, God's actions in the world have been relegated to myth or folklore. How might we begin to reclaim the wonder of God as Sovereign over all things?
6. Belshazzar took the temple items and used them for his own pleasure and worship. What strengths and abilities has God granted you? How are you using them for His honor and praise?

CONCLUSION

Daniel 5 gives us an ultimate picture of the results of stubborn pride. It is not a stretch to suggest that each of us, like Belshazzar, when placed on the scale of God's justice will be found wanting. Our pride can and will stop us from submitting to the sovereignty of God, a God who is for us not against us. It is in His gracious might that he sent Christ to save the world, not condemn it. That is a sovereignty worth celebrating.

SHARE & PRAY

- Share how you can pray for each other in light of this study.
- Conclude by spending some time praying for one another, for the areas of growth and grace you are seeking, and the needs among you.

