

## Sermon Notes – Daniel 5 – Check Your Weight

You have an impact. Some call it a footprint. Your spiritual weight determines your surroundings. If you are too light, you get bounced around. If you are too heavy, you make a dent and leave a mark. You bump into things and can do some serious spiritual damage. You want your weight to be just right.

***We begin to understand that since the world has a spiritual side, our spiritual weight is pretty important.***

### Read Daniel 5:1 -- The Invasion

We actually know the date of this party. It was October 11<sup>th</sup>, 539 BC. On October 12, 539BC, the Persians conquered the city of Babylon. The first world empire was overthrown. The Persians had been attacking. King Belshazzar's father, King Nabonidus (Na-bon-i-dus), had gone out two days earlier to meet them in battle. He hadn't been heard from since.

So the young king thought, "Our enemies surround us. Our king is missing. Doom awaits us at every turn. What should we do?" His answer -- "Throw a *huge* party. Drink a *lot* of wine. Have a good time."

***It is a lightweight life that runs away from difficulty as if it doesn't really exist.***

### Read Daniel 5:2-4 -- God's Holiness Can Have Quite a Jolt

God's holiness is God's desire for the universe to be a good place. And it isn't a good place when people are getting drunk out of their gourd. Good things don't happen when people are drunk or high. They just escape, or least think they escape the difficult parts of this world.

Getting drunk or high isn't a great response! God wants you to have some impact by doing what is right – by making this a better place by your presence, which isn't too light or too heavy.

### Read Daniel 5:5-6 -- The Writing's on the Wall

When a giant disembodied hand appears, it's too late.

### Read Daniel 5:7-23 – The King Calls for Daniel

Daniel is basically saying, "At least Nebuchadnezzar had something to be arrogant about!" He was a mighty ruler, but when he got too cocky, God brought him down.

Daniel adds, "I don't what you were thinking. You have clearly crossed a line, and you have to wake me up in the middle of the night to point that out to you!?"

### Read Daniel 5:24-31 – God Weighs People

This is about weight. These three words are about measurement. Mene, Tekel, Parsin. They measure worth.

**Mene** -- The King's impact had been counted and it was decided that he was wanting. What he had would be taken away to make up for the loss.

**Tekel** -- The King had been weighed and had been found light.

**Parsin** -- The kingdom would be broken in two and given away.

### Conclusion

What is your weight? Are you overweight and arrogant and think you deserve what you've earned? Because you are responsible and others aren't, you deserve more than they do? Does God love you more than others?

Are you a lightweight? Are you having no impact at all? You think God made beer so you could drink lots of it?

God is concerned about your weight and about the impact you are having on his Kingdom.