

A Lesson in Accountability and Consequences

“You reap what you sow.” “Cause and effect.” “Actions have consequences.” There is truth in these common phrases, but it can be easy for us to forget such wisdom in the heat of a moment. When we face difficult decisions, we often wish for a clear and obvious divine message from God, but it is important to remember that much of what we need or desire to know, we can already find in the Bible. When we are tempted to seek power and glory for ourselves, it is valuable for us to revisit the story of “the hand writing on the wall” in Daniel, [chapter 5](#). As Daniel interprets the meaning of this divine message for King Belshazzar, we learn a great deal about the relationship between accountability, consequences, and our faith. And we are reminded and assured that God is in control, sovereign over all, and that he deserves all the glory.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- Have you heard or used the phrase “the writing is on the wall”? What do you think this phrase means?
- Have you ever wished for a direct message or vision from God? Why or why not?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [A Lesson in Accountability and Consequences](#)

READ [Daniel 5](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- King Belshazzar and his guests offended God by using what belonged to God to feast and at the same time praise false gods. In what ways might we take something that belongs to God and, while using it, give praise to ourselves or others instead of to God?
- King Belshazzar witnessed God humbling his father Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 4) and Daniel tells King Belshazzar that he has “forgotten” what he should have learned from that experience. Read Psalms 77 and 103. As you reflect on these Psalms about remembering what God has done, consider these questions: What came to your mind as you read? What role does remembering play in shaping and sustaining your faith? Why do you think God designed it this way?
- Wealth, power, pride, and arrogance brought about Belshazzar’s downfall. Which of these sinful dispositions do you struggle with the most? What steps might you take to combat this sin? How might the Holy Spirit impact your transformation?
- At the end of this episode, hosts Darrell Delaney and Scott Hoezee share that if we believe in God, then we can both see and be known by God. In what ways have you seen God’s “writing on the walls” in your life? How does God draw near to you?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[Galatians 6:7-10](#), [Galatians 5:22-26](#), [1 Corinthians 3:10-15](#), [2 Corinthians 5:20](#), [Ephesians 2:8-9](#), [Psalm 139](#)

CONCLUSION

In segment 3, Darrell points out that having Christ as our firm foundation leads us to live out our faith with gratitude. Keep a gratitude journal this week. Record a list of things that you see, remember, or experience that you are grateful for. Consider how your gratitude might lead you to honor and serve God in your daily life. Add any Bible verses that come to mind this week so that you can revisit them when you are discouraged or forgetful. Take time each day to review your list and to offer your thanks to God in prayer.

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