

**Sermon Notes:** April 12, 2026

## **Daniel 5 – A Wasted Life**

**Primary Text:** Daniel 5 (selected)

**Key Reading:** Daniel 5:18–20; 22–24 (CEB)

### **Big Idea**

A wasted life is not one without opportunity, but one that **knows the truth and refuses to respond**.

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### **Setting the Scene**

- Belshazzar ruled Babylon after Nebuchadnezzar.
- He **knew the story** of pride humbled and mercy given (Daniel 4).
- His downfall was not ignorance, but **willful disregard**.

*“You haven’t submitted—even though you’ve known all this.” (Daniel 5:22)*

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### **1. Sacred Things Treated Casually**

#### **Daniel 5:1–4**

- Belshazzar throws a drunken feast.
- Uses holy vessels from God’s temple to praise idols.
- This is deliberate dishonor, not a mistake.

#### **Key Truth:**

A wasted life rarely begins with one big rebellion, but with **small compromises and pride**.

 Galatians 6:7

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### **2. Pride Collapses Under God’s Presence**

#### **Daniel 5:5–9**

- A hand writes on the wall.
- The king’s confidence vanishes into fear.
- His reaction reveals what he already knows—God sees all.

 Psalm 90:8

**Key Truth:**

Earthly power and wisdom cannot stop divine judgment.

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**3. Truth Confronts What Was Already Known****Daniel 5:17–23**

- Daniel reminds Belshazzar of Nebuchadnezzar's humbling.
- Belshazzar ignored what he inherited and understood.

**Key Truth:**

A wasted life is not about lacking information, but **refusing submission**.

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**The Writing on the Wall****Daniel 5:25–28****MENE – Numbered**

Your days are measured.

📖 Job 14:5

📖 Psalm 90:12

**TEKEL – Weighed**

Your life is measured by God's standard.

📖 1 Samuel 2:3

📖 Romans 3:23

**PERES – Divided**

Judgment is decisive and not delayed.

📖 Daniel 5:30–31

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**How Do We Avoid a Wasted Life?****1. Honor God with what He has given you**

Time, influence, and opportunity are entrusted gifts.

📖 Luke 12:48b

## 2. Learn from Scripture and others' stories

God provides examples to shape us, not shame us.

📖 Romans 15:4

## 3. Respond when God speaks

Delayed obedience becomes disobedience.

📖 Hebrews 3:15

📖 James 4:17

## 4. Live with eternity in view

The goal is faithfulness, not comfort or success.

📖 Matthew 25:23

📖 2 Corinthians 5:10

## 5. Choose the better ending

As long as you can still hear this warning, your story does not have to be Belshazzar's—because response, not knowledge, determines the ending.

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## Final Question

### What are you doing with what God has already shown you?

A life is rarely wasted all at once.

It is wasted by ignoring God—one opportunity at a time.

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## Small Group Discussion Questions

1. Why does it matter that Belshazzar *knew* Nebuchadnezzar's story?
2. Where are you tempted to treat God's gifts casually?
3. Which word—**Mene, Tekel, or Peres**—stands out to you right now?
4. Is there an area where you've delayed responding to God?
5. What would faithful response look like this week?