



*Mene Tekel
Parshin*

"But you did not honor the God who holds in his hand your life and all your ways." Daniel 5:23.

Bible Study:



This story is quite straightforward, but it has deep implications. Belshazzar behaved in a way that was completely befitting his culture; he was acting like Babylonian royalty. However God had done a work in his father's life, and the text (v 22). Belshazzar was fully aware of the transforming power of God because he had witnessed it in his father's life. So Belshazzar faced a choice that had life or death implications!

The gospel in the story:



The word "gospel" means good news. And the good news is that Jesus is the one who can save sinners from their sin. And that is good news for EVERYONE, because like Belshazzar, **without** Jesus we all would be "**weighed and found wanting.**" It is only through the cleansing work of Jesus' death on the cross that we can measure up to God's perfect standard through the amazing gift of Jesus' righteousness!

Application:

Head: **What did we learn?**

Q: Who is Belshazzar? A: Nebuchadnezzar's son

Q: What sinful act does Belshazzar commit? A: He uses cups taken from the Jewish Temple to worship false Gods.

Q: What was Belshazzar's heart problem? A: Pride. He refused to humble himself before God – even though he knew full well of God's power and sovereignty.

Q: How does God communicate His judgment? A: Writes the words Mene, Tekel and Parsin on the wall.

Q: What do the words mean: Mene: numbered days; Tekel: weighed and found wanting; Parsin: divided kingdom.

Heart: **Memory verse**

"But you did not honor the God who holds in his hand your life and all your ways." (Daniel 5:23).

Hands: **How does this affect the way I live my life?**

Though Belshazzar used sacred items from the temple, the REAL sin was not humbling himself before God. Despite his full knowledge of his father's transformation – Nebuchadnezzar came to truly praise honor and extol God as the One True God – Belshazzar chose to ignore what he knew from watching his father's transformation, and instead return to worshipping false gods. God desires that we humble ourselves before Him and put our trust in ONLY Him.