

Title: Like Father Like Son - Daniel 5 1-12

Read:

¹⁻⁴ King Belshazzar held a great feast for his one thousand nobles. The wine flowed freely. Belshazzar, heady with the wine, ordered that the gold and silver chalices his father Nebuchadnezzar had stolen from God's Temple of Jerusalem be brought in so that he and his nobles, his wives and concubines, could drink from them. When the gold and silver chalices were brought in, the king and his nobles, his wives and his concubines, drank wine from them. They drank the wine and drunkenly praised their gods made of gold and silver, bronze and iron, wood and stone.⁵⁻⁷ At that very moment, the fingers of a human hand appeared and began writing on the lamp-illuminated, whitewashed wall of the palace. When the king saw the disembodied hand writing away, he went white as a ghost, scared out of his wits. His legs went limp and his knees knocked. He yelled out for the enchanters, the fortunetellers, and the diviners to come. He told these Babylonian magi, "Anyone who can read this writing on the wall and tell me what it means will be famous and rich—purple robe, the great gold chain—and be third-in-command in the kingdom."⁸⁻⁹ One after the other they tried, but could make no sense of it. They could neither read what was written nor interpret it to the king. So now the king was really frightened. All the blood drained from his face. The nobles were in a panic.¹⁰⁻¹² The queen heard of the hysteria among the king and his nobles and came to the banquet hall. She said, "Long live the king! Don't be upset. Don't sit around looking like ghosts. There is a man in your kingdom who is full of the divine Holy Spirit. During your father's time he was well known for his intellectual brilliance and spiritual wisdom. He was so good that your father, King Nebuchadnezzar, made him the head of all the magicians, enchanters, fortunetellers, and diviners. There was no one quite like him. He could do anything—interpret dreams, solve mysteries, explain puzzles. His name is Daniel, but he was renamed Belteshazzar by the king. Have Daniel called in. He'll tell you what is going on here."

Think:

This new King is turning out just like his father was before his father learnt the lesson that God is the one to turn to. Is that true of all of us are we going to turn out just like our parents, no matter what we do? Maybe your parents are great, maybe they are running with God and actually you would love to turn out like your parents. Maybe you never knew your parents. Maybe one or both of your parents aren't so great, maybe someone has told you, that you are just like your Father or Mother and you didn't see that as a complement. So are we doomed to be like our parents whether we want to or not? Well the bad news is that your parents are only human. But there is good news. The good news is that your parents are only human. You see the good things our parents do are great examples, but if we don't do the same things then we can't expect the same results. If our parents take the time to be with God every morning and as a result they develop a trust in God that every one envies, then we need to do the same to get the same result. The bad things our parents do may hurt, but we can know that if we don't do them then we won't get the same results. If our parents drink way too much alcohol and as a result become addicted and have bad stuff happen. Then we can know that as long as we make a point of not doing the same, then we won't have the same bad results. It's not about where we come from that is important it's about where we look to for our advice that is crucial. If we look to our heavenly Father God for our guidance and combine this with the good example of our earthly parents then we can look forward to a future that does not repeat the mistakes of the past.

Pray:

Dear Father thank you for the good stuff my parents have given me. Please help me discard the bad stuff that comes from my parents and look to you for my guidance.

Action:

Pray for one thing that your parents or carers struggle with and go to those who are your parents or carers and thank them for one good thing you have learnt from them. Bye.