



**Harmonychurch.life**

Each month we have a special memory verse and Life App. All of our stories revolve around those.  
This month's Memory Verse is:

**"Finally, let the Lord make you strong. Depend on his mighty power."  
*Ephesians 6:10***

Last month & this month's life app is

**Conviction  
"Standing up for what's right even when others don't."**

Our basic truth, that **never** changes is that

**"I can trust God no matter what."**

Each week, we have a different bottom line that goes with our story.

W1) **"If you want to stand for what's right, listen to someone who listens to God."**

This week's bottom line is;

**"You can stand for what's right, even when it's not popular."**

Our story for this week is 'The Writing on the Wall'. (Daniel 5)

\*\* Today's story is about a king who ruled after King Nebuchadnezzar. This king's name was King Belshazzar.

One day, King Belshazzar decided to throw a party for all the important people in the kingdom. And this party was huge! There were a thousand people at this party and all of the people were having a great time.

Unfortunately, the party was about to take a bad turn. For some reason King Belshazzar had the crazy idea that this party would be even better if they took some of the sacred cups that had taken from God's Temple back in Jerusalem, and drank from them there at the party while praising their own idols.

Sounds like a horrible idea, doesn't it?

It was a horrible idea. But the king gave the command. The sacred cups from God's Temple were brought in. And the king, along with everyone at the party, started drinking out of the cups and praising their idols even though the cups were only supposed to be used to worship God!

Well, as you can imagine, God was not happy about this. And something incredible happened that got everyone's attention and stopped the party completely!

In Daniel chapter 5 verse 25, the Bible says that a hand appeared in thin air and wrote on the wall of the palace.

*"Mene, Mene, Tekel, Parsin."*

Everyone was shocked! The King was terrified when he saw the hand write these words. His knees knocked together from fear! And finally, his legs gave out and he fell down in terror. The king didn't know what these words meant, but he knew it had to be bad.

He called in all of his wise men and advisors. He even offered them a reward! Whoever could read the words, and tell him what they meant, would be given a royal purple robe, a gold chain to wear, and would be made the third most powerful ruler in the kingdom!

But the king's wise men and advisors didn't know what it meant. They couldn't even read it. King Belshazzar was scared, he didn't know if he would ever understand what these words meant. But then the Queen entered the banquet hall.

After she entered the banquet hall, she gave the king some good news. There was one man in the kingdom who had helped out King Nebuchadnezzar years ago. He was a prophet who could solve riddles, understand mysteries, and even interpret dreams! This man's name was Daniel. And so, the king immediately sent for him.

The king and Daniel spoke to each other. The king told the Daniel the situation with the party and the mysterious writing, and he told Daniel how none of the other wise men could even read the words. Then he told Daniel about the sweet reward for anyone who could read and interpret the words.

Daniel agreed to interpret the words, but told the king to keep his gifts and rewards. Then Daniel started talking about King Nebuchadnezzar, the one who had been king before Belshazzar. He talked about how God has blessed Nebuchadnezzar with a glorious kingdom, and riches, and power. But Nebuchadnezzar made mistakes, too. He had become prideful and thought he was more important than he really was. So, God taught him a lesson by taking his power away for a time. King Nebuchadnezzar learned that God is the Most High, that He rules over everything and everyone.

Daniel told King Belshazzar that he knew that His Majesty knew all about what happened to King Nebuchadnezzar; after all, it was his Dad. Yet, instead of learning from his Dad's (King Nebuchadnezzar's) mistakes, he chose to act foolishly anyway. He had taken sacred objects that belonged to God and used them at the party to worship false gods. That's why God sent the hand to write the words on the wall.

The king was in BIG trouble with God.

Daniel pointed to the first two words. **'Mene.'** It meant that God had numbered the days of King Belshazzar's reign. His time as king was limited.

Daniel pointed to the next word. **'Tekel.'** It meant that God had measured and judged King Belshazzar, and decided that he did not measure up. He was doing a bad job as king and God was pretty disappointed in him.

Then Daniel pointed to the last word. **'Parsin.'** It meant that King Belshazzar's kingdom would be given to the other kingdoms, the Medes and Persians.

Wow...Daniel just gave the king some awful news. It took boldness, it took courage, but most of all it took conviction for Daniel to stand up and tell the king the truth. Daniel did the right thing by telling him what he needed to hear even though he knew the king wouldn't be happy and an unhappy king could be scary.

However, King Belshazzar kept his promise. Daniel was dressed in purple, given a gold chain, and made third highest ruler in the kingdom. But sadly, the king was killed that very night and the kingdom was given to Darius the Mede.

King Belshazzar made some really bad choices and he paid the price for it, but we really want to focus on Daniel.

Daniel hadn't been invited to the party, I guess you could say he wasn't all that popular. At first, the king didn't even know who Daniel was. But when he was brought in, he showed bravery when he spoke to the king. He could have lied and said everything was fine and that they should continue the party. But instead, Daniel told the truth even though it wasn't what anyone wanted to hear. That's what our Bottom Line is about.

**"You can stand for what's right, even when it's not popular."**

Too often we're worried about what other people think instead of what God thinks. But Daniel wasn't worried about what people thought. He followed God even though it meant being less popular. We will face similar choices. So, it's important to talk to God and ask Him to help us when need to stand up for what's right. Let's pray.

## **PRAY**

Dear God, help us have the conviction to stand up and speak out when we see others doing what is wrong. Help us to care more about what You think, than being popular. Guide us and give us the courage to make the best choices and to influence our friends to make the best choices too. We ask these things in Jesus' name, Amen.

That was another great story about Daniel. He had all kinds of conviction! There will be moments when having Conviction will be tough. When that happens, think of Daniel and the conviction that he showed. Remember, bottom line for today is:

**"You can stand for what's right, even when it's not popular."**