

Getting It All Wrong

When were you caught doing something wrong? What happened next?

Read Daniel 5:1-30.

1. Why did Belshazzar call for the gold and silver goblets?
 - A. He was thirsty.
 - B. They ran out of clean cups and goblets during the party.
 - C. He was drunk.
 - D. This showed domination over conquered people and their god(s).
 - E. He wanted to be like Nebuchadnezzar.
 - F. This fit into his worship of the gods of gold and silver.
 - G. As the king, he could demand them whenever he wanted.
 - H. He was just showing off to those who were present.
 - I. Other.

2. What would have been your reaction to the handwriting event?
 - A. Not a big deal.
 - B. I would have completely freaked out.
 - C. When you're that drunk, you don't really know what's happening.
 - D. "This must be a trick."
 - E. I would do all in my power to get someone to explain it.
 - F. "Who cares? Let's party!"
 - G. My knees would have knocked really loudly (see verse 5).
 - H. I would have been ready to change my heart, mind, and actions to follow Yahweh.
 - I. Other.

3. What does the wise men's inability to decipher the message tell you?
 - A. They weren't very wise.
 - B. This reminds me of Daniel 2 when wise men couldn't help the king.
 - C. Why wasn't Daniel present when the king called for the wise men?
 - D. Even those considered wise have limitations.
 - E. God can easily communicate in ways that confound the wise.
 - F. None were willing to tell the king the negative message.
 - G. This sounds similar to 1 Corinthians 1:19-25.
 - H. The best we have sometimes simply isn't enough.
 - I. Other.

4. Who was able to help King Belshazzar?
 - A. His wise men.
 - B. His nobles.
 - C. The Hebrew nobles that had been trained in the ways of Babylon.
 - D. The king's wives and concubines.
 - E. Daniel.
 - F. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.
 - G. Nebuchadnezzar.
 - H. The Medes and Persians.
 - I. Other.

5. What would Daniel get if he could interpret the writing on the wall?
 - A. He would become king.
 - B. The royal treatment.
 - C. The option to return from exile to Jerusalem.
 - D. He would become #3 in a kingdom about to fall.
 - E. The high position and responsibility Nebuchadnezzar had given him.
 - F. Respect.
 - G. Reinstatement as one of the wise men of Babylon.
 - H. Other.

6. What was Daniel's message to Belshazzar?
 - A. I don't want your promises or rewards.
 - B. God brings down the proud, no matter how high and mighty they are.
 - C. You seem to have had a breakdown.
 - D. God has judged you, and it doesn't look good for you.
 - E. You lack humility.
 - F. I want to be just like you.
 - G. You've been serving the wrong god(s).
 - H. Other.

7. When have you seen the high and mighty brought low?

8. Does what you do give honor to God, to idols, or neither? What do you expect as a result, and when?