Readings:
Daniel 5 – God, the ruler of nations

Key Verse: And you have lifted yourself up against the Lord of heaven. They have brought the vessels of His house before you, and you and your lords, your wives and your concubines, have drunk wine from them. And you have praised the gods of silver and gold, bronze and iron, wood and stone, which do not see or hear or know; and the God who holds your breath in His hand and owns all your ways, you have not glorified. - Daniel 5:23

Outline of Daniel Five
I. Booze and idolatry in a king’s court (1-4)
II. Panic and humiliation in a king’s court (5-9)
   a. The hand and the writing (5)
   b. The quaking king (6)
   c. More helpless advisors (7-9)
III. The arrival of God’s man (10-16)
   a. The advice of the queen (10-12)
   b. Daniel before the offender (13-16)
IV. The indictment (17-24)
   a. The repudiation of hire (17)
   b. Lessons from history (18-21)
   c. Wasted lessons from history (22-24)
V. The sentence and execution (25-30)
   a. The explanation of the message (25-28)
   b. A third of nothing (29)
   c. “Thou fool, this night…” (30)

1 Faithometer for Nebuchadnezzar

In each column, indicate how you would rate Nebuchadnezzar’s faith in the true God if only the verse at the bottom is taken into consideration.

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Questions for discussion

a) What are some indications in Daniel chapter five that Belshazzar is not a very kingly king?

b) Contrast how Daniel interacts with Belshazzar and how he interacted with Nebuchadnezzar in chapter four.

c) Our key verse, Daniel 5:23, says that God holds our breath in His hand and owns all our ways. What are some other verses that express the same or similar thoughts?

d) Did Belshazzar intend to dishonor God when he used the temple vessels for his drunken party? If it was unintentional, should he have been guiltless?

e) Why did God defend the honor of the temple vessels with such ferocity?