

1 In what kind of situations do you usually hear people say, “I saw the handwriting on the wall?” What are they referring to?

 In Daniel 5, God stops Belshazzar's party in its tracks. What kinds of things have you experienced from God that stopped you in your tracks?

 What was the purpose of the handwriting in Daniel 5? What does that aspect of this story teach us about God's judgment?

2 What are some ways that people try to protect themselves from God's judgment? In addition, what do people do to convince themselves that they are beyond His reach?

 When you sense God stepping into your life like Belshazzar did, what are some of your most common incorrect responses?

 When you come up short in the scales of God's estimation, what is the best way to respond?

3 Discuss the following thought from the fourth century church father Augustine. “I would have been undone, if I had not been undone. I would have been ruined, if I had not been ruined. God orders lesser afflictions that we may escape greater.”² How do you resonate with that statement?

 When you view God's work that way, how does it change your perspective on discipline and judgment?

 Read Hebrews 12:5-17. When you think about it, how are God's acts of discipline also acts of grace?

 How has God used lesser afflictions in your life to help you escape a greater?

