

Weighed in the Balance and Found Wanting

Dan 5:27

Introduction:

1. The background
 - a. King Belshazzar has made a great feast for 1000 of his lords
 - b. The order was given to get the golden vessels captured from temple
 - c. Royal wine flowed as people praised the gods of Babylon – vs 4-8
 - d. Daniel was brought in to interpret the message – Read vs 25-28
2. This is a solemn, serious message to come from God to anyone!
 - a. Suppose tonight upon the wall of your bedroom, the finger of God inscribed words of death, doom and judgment ...
 - b. If God said, “Tonight your days are past on earth tonight you must die.” Are you ready to die?
3. “Oh, you don’t scare me Preacher
 - a. If you’re not scared, then you ought to be
 - b. The Bible commends the fear of God
Pr 9:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.
 - c. A person who does not fear God is not wise!
 - d. Anyone with common sense, who thinks about God judgment and eternity and his sins will become disturbed if he is not prepared for it!
4. It’s better to get scared now and repent than to face God at the judgment in your sins! – Heb 10:31
31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.
5. If you had to face God’s balance today – what would you weigh?
 - a. Belshazzar wasn’t weighed in the balances of his reputation
 - b. He wasn’t weighed in the balances of his friends
 - c. He wasn’t even weighed in the balances of the gods of Babylon
 - d. He was weighed in the balances of the just, righteous God of heaven
6. Imagine stepping up onto God’s scales – God’s balance
 - a. God’s balance is accurate, it never lies for anybody!
 - b. There’s no mercy with balances! Lady justice carries scales
 - c. Balances are a symbol of justice!
 - d. Lady justice is always blindfolded so everyone is treated equally
7. You step up on the scales and on the other side God puts His own perfect holiness, righteousness and perfection!
 - a. In order to balance the scales, you’ll have to be just as good as God
 - b. You’d have to be just as holy as God and just as righteous as God!
 - c. There can be no flaws, no sins, no mistakes, no weaknesses!
 - d. You must be equal with God in perfection!
 - e. Justice won’t do – you need God’s mercy

I. Suppose You Were Weighed Against God's Law

- A good summary of God's required standard is His law ... it is perfect!
- We don't have time to deal with all the law, so let's just use the 10 commandments! In a nutshell, they are the basic laws!
- In the balances go the 10 commandments and you are on the other side

A. The First Commandment – Ex 20:3

3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

1. Jesus puts it this way – Matt 22:37-38 ←
2. Let me ask you...
 - a) *Have you always loved God with every heartbeat, with every breath, with all your strength, and with all your mind?*
 - b) *Has there ever been one second in your life that you didn't love God above all else?*
3. You've already broken the first and greatest commandment!
4. You're too light ... You don't weigh enough!

B. The Second Commandment – Ex 20:4

4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:

1. "I haven't broken this one - I'm no heathen - I don't have any idols!"
2. The idols have changed their names and disguised themselves, but they're the same gods men have always worshipped!
3. The Greeks worshipped a god whose name was "Bacchus."
 - a) *He was the Greek god of wine!*
 - b) *Today you'd recognize him as Budweiser, Miller, Coors, Jack Daniels, Rum, Brandy, Vodka etc.*
 - c) *Multitudes bow down to Bacchus and give themselves, mind, soul and body, and don't even know his name!*
4. Greeks had another god named "Plutus."
 - a) *Plutus was the Greek god of riches and wealth!*
 - b) *Many poor souls give themselves into the service of Plutus!*
 - c) *They spend their lives worshipping riches and wealth! -1Tim 6:10*
5. Romans loved a goddess named "Venus."
 - a) *She was a goddess of beauty, sex, and passion!*
 - b) *Today, she is some sexy, movie queen or the sexiest man alive*
 - c) *You'll find her nude pictures hanging on the walls of a thousand dormitory rooms!*
 - d) *Many bow down themselves to this goddess of lust and sex*
 - e) *People haven't changed ... Their gods haven't changed ... They've changed their names, but they're still the same!*
6. One thing is for sure ... If the God of heaven is not sitting on the throne of your heart, some god is! That's your idol

C. The Third Commandment – Ex 20:7

7 Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

1. Folks take this so lightly! This is a serious matter with God
2. Pastor witnessed to a man ←
3. When that law was written, men were executed for blaspheming God!
 - a) *They stoned to death those who used God's name in vain!*
 - b) *That practice would thin out our population today, wouldn't it?*
4. Some may excuse cursing as a bad habit, or you may overlook it and say, "Oh, I didn't mean anything by it."
 - a) *It's a transgression against God's law!*
 - b) *It leaves the soul guilty, too light, and wanting in the balances!*

D. The Sixth Commandment – Ex 20:13

13 Thou shalt not kill.

1. We don't have time to deal with each commandment separately!
2. If so, I would expect you would be guilty of breaking them too!
3. "I've never killed anybody ... I'm not guilty!"
4. In the first place, you don't have to blow a man's brains out with a revolver to kill him!
 - a) *There's more than one way to kill a man!*
 - b) *You can destroy his reputation, kill his influence and render his life fruitless!*
 - c) *Sam Jones said he once knew a lady in Georgia who had a tongue long enough to sit in the living room and lick a skillet clean in the kitchen! With that kind of tongue she could wrap it around a man's neck and hang him!*
5. A wife may die prematurely of a broken heart because of the unfaithfulness of a sorry husband!
 - a) *You can kill your wife with neglect, indifference, another woman!*
 - b) *Mothers have gone to early graves because of a wayward, wicked, rebellious son!*
6. The Bible says in 1 John 3:15

15 Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.

 - a) *Hatred in the heart makes a man a murderer inside!*
 - b) *Now you try to convince God that you've always loved everybody, and He'll add lying to your list of sins!*
7. You're too light ... The law is heavy ... The balances don't balance ... You're found wanting!

E. The Seventh Commandment – Ex 20:14

14 Thou shalt not commit adultery.

1. “I’ve been faithful to my wife, I’m no adulterer!”
2. You better listen to what Jesus said in Matt 5:28
28 But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.
 - a) *God knows every thought that goes through your brain!*
 - b) *He knows every imagination of your wicked heart!*
3. Men usually get all the blame for looking and lusting ... Some of it belongs to the woman!
 - a) *The same fallen nature and sinful heart that drives a man to lust, drives a woman to desire to be lusted after!*
 - b) *What makes a woman strut around in public places with short, short, short shorts on, and them turned up four times?*
 - c) *Any woman who parades her immodestly clad body before men, with the desire to be lusted for, has a harlot’s heart!*
 - d) *How do you stack up against God’s perfect holiness?*

F. We All Fall Short

1. Can you see how far short you come ... How light you are?
2. We can’t balance the scales ... I knew that all along!
3. The Bible already told me that everyone is too light!
Ro 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

II. Who Can Balance the Scales?

A. What Can I Do? I’m Helpless and Hopeless!

1. “I’ll join a church and be religious.”
 - a) *No good!*
 - b) *All the rituals and ceremonies placed with you in the balances will not measure up to the standard of justice!*
2. “I’ll reform, I’ll stop sinning!”
 - a) *What about those sins already on the books?*
 - b) *Justice demands back payment!*
 - c) *Your past sins are held against you!*
3. “I’ll do good works.” What about Isa 64:6?
6 But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.
4. What then can I do to balance the scales?
 - a) *No need in me claiming I’ve never sinned!*
 - b) *I’m guilty ... I’ve broken the law*
 - c) *I’ve fallen short of the glory of God ... I’m too light, I’m wanting!*

B. You Need Jesus

1. There's only one person who never broke the law ... Jesus!
 - a) *He kept it to the letter!*
 - b) *The law can't condemn Him*
 - c) *God can't condemn Him*
 - d) *Justice could find no wrong in Him!*
 - e) *Jesus is just as holy as God the Father, as righteous as God*
 - f) *Jesus is equal with God and He met all the demands of God!*
2. On that day when I'm weighed at the judgment bar of God, He'll climb onto my end of the balance!
 - a) *And with Jesus standing with me, those balances will hang level!*
 - b) *Holding to the hand of Jesus, I'll march through the gates of pearl into a city of gold to live in heaven and never die!*
 - c) *If He stands with you in the balances, you'll go to heaven!*
 - d) *If you stand alone, you'll be lost forever!*
 - e) *You're not heavy enough to balance the scales ... You need Jesus!*

III. Let's Go Back and Finish the Story

1. Belshazzar listened to the interpretation!
2. Suddenly, a cry was heard in the streets!
 - a) *The doors to the beautiful banquet hall burst open!*
 - b) *Medes and Persians rushed in and filled the hall!*
3. While Belshazzar was throwing his wild party, they blocked the river that ran under the wall and through the city, changed its course
4. And marched under the wall into the city!
 - a) *Now the city was aflame ... Fire was everywhere!*
 - b) *Those magnificent buildings were crumbling in desolation and ruin, mighty Babylon was falling!*
5. In the banquet hall, the drunken lords and ladies were slaughtered!
 - a) *Their screams pierced the air ... Their red blood ran like water over the marble floor!*
 - b) *Lifeless bodies slumped over the banquet tables and Belshazzar tried to escape!*
6. Belshazzar is captured ... He is pale as a ghost in the flickering light
 - a) *A sword flashes from the sheath ... Its edge is as sharp as a razor!*
 - b) *His body slumps and then two soldiers cut off his head!*
 - c) *With the bloody, dripping head sticking high on a spear, they run through the streets of Babylon shouting the victory!*
 - d) *The Bible simply says in v.30 ...*
30 In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain.

Conclusion:

1. God is a weight watcher
2. When you face God and are weighed in the balances will Jesus stand with you?
3. If you want Him on your side then, you must trust Him as Savior now.
4. Will you accept Him, trust Him and own Him now?
5. A reporter was interviewing Elizabeth Taylor. She was a movie star of years gone by. She had gained many pounds and grown overweight. At the time of the interview she had lost the weight and was at her goal weight.

The reporter interviewing Elizabeth Taylor asked, "Why did you lose the weight? What made you lose the weight?" She answered that she was traveling with her husband in Virginia. She was at a hotel, got out of the shower and there was a full-length mirror. She caught a look at herself in that full-length mirror and she saw how large she had become. At home she had only used small mirrors and had avoided seeing herself as she really was... fat. When she saw herself as she really was, it was easy to lose the weight.

Our enemy wants to use small mirrors to hide the facts of our real condition. We must see ourselves in the light of God's Word and the shadow of the cross. Do you avoid the truth of God's Word like fat people avoid full-length mirrors?

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I borrowed extensively from a sermon by Bo Dunford.

A pastor spoke to a man about his soul one day and told him that he needed to trust Christ as Savior and be saved from his sin. He said, "Preacher, you sound like I'm the biggest crook in Spartanburg. I'm not so bad. I don't do anything wrong. I live a clean life, work hard, pay my bills, don't have any bad habits." "Oh, every now and then I may get mad and fly off the handle and cuss a little bit." The pastor said, "Friend, do you know what you might as well have said? You might have well as said, "Preacher, I live a clean life, I pay my bills, I don't have any bad habits. Oh, every now and then I fly off the handle and go out and shoot a few folks. Not often, that is, I just kill a man every once in a while, when I feel like it." The same law that says, "Thou shalt not kill," also says, "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain." And they're only six verses apart!"

1Ti 6:10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

37 ... Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38 This is the first and great commandment.