

## Cultivating Your Heart

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Message Notes:  
Aldersgate Church



### The Daniel Dilemma

How to Stand Firm & Love Well in a Culture of Compromise

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Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.  
Luke 2:52 (NIV)

King Belshazzar gave a great banquet for a thousand of his nobles and drank wine with them. While Belshazzar was drinking his wine, he gave orders to bring in the **gold and silver goblets that Nebuchadnezzar his father had taken from the temple in Jerusalem**, so that the king and his nobles, his wives and his concubines might drink from them. So they brought in the gold goblets that had been taken from the temple of God in Jerusalem, and the king and his nobles, his wives and his concubines drank from them. As they drank the wine, they praised the gods of gold and silver, of bronze, iron, wood and stone. Suddenly the fingers of a human hand appeared and wrote on the plaster of the wall, near the lampstand in the royal palace. The king watched the hand as it wrote. His face turned pale and he was so frightened that his knees knocked together and his legs gave way. Daniel 5:1-6 (NIV)

## BIG IDEA

Cultivating My Heart Requires Me To  
Treat as Holy that which is Holy.

Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.  
1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (NIV)

## How To Cultivate Your Heart?

### 1. Resolve to reject Babylon's Reward.

Then Daniel answered the king, "You may keep your gifts for yourself and give your rewards to someone else. Nevertheless, I will read the writing for the king and tell him what it means."  
Daniel 5:17 (NIV)

In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for special purposes and some for common use. Those who cleanse themselves from the latter will be instruments for special purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.  
2 Timothy 2:20-21 (NIV)

### 2. Remember the lessons Of The Past.

"O king, the Most High God gave your **father** Nebuchadnezzar sovereignty and greatness and glory and splendor... But when his heart became arrogant and hardened with pride, he was deposed from his royal throne and stripped of his glory. He was driven away from people and given the mind of an animal; he lived with the wild donkeys and ate grass like cattle; and his body was drenched with the dew of heaven, **until he acknowledged that the Most High God is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and sets over them anyone he wishes.**  
Daniel 5:18, 20-21 (NIV)

### 3. Read the Writing On The Wall.

"Mene, Mene, Tekle, Parsin -This is what these words mean:  
**Mene:** God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end.  
**Tekel:** You have been weighed on the scales and found wanting.  
**Peres:** Your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians."  
Daniel 5:25-28 (NIV)