

October 27, 2019

Pastor Steve Hardy

Hezekiah Called on the Name of the LORD *2 Kings 19 and 20*

Hezekiah stands out in contrast to the generally sinful, idolatrous ways of the people of God and their leaders. His righteous ways and obedient heart are described (2 Kings 18:1-8), and his national spiritual reforms well documented (2 Chronicles 29-31). But these do not protect him from both national and personal crisis, and he faces those challenges with prayer.

- I. Prayer is the best first RESPONSE to life events.
 - A. Most things in life are out of our CONTROL, 2 Kings 19:16-18; 20:1.
 - B. Prayer recognizes God as the SOVEREIGN CREATOR, 19:15-16; 20:2-3.
 - C. As we pray we ought to evaluate our MOTIVES, 19:19; 20:3, 17-19.
 - D. Prayer may not be our EXCLUSIVE recourse, 19:35-37; 20:7.
- II. God acts to fulfill his PURPOSE for his GLORY.
 - A. God will act so that his name is EXALTED, 19:19, 20-28.
 - B. God will act in FAITHFULNESS to his promises, 19:34; 20:5-6.
 - C. God's plan is beyond our full UNDERSTANDING, 20:12-21:2.
- III. It is fully reasonable to TRUST GOD through life's events, 18:19-35.
 - A. Do we trust in our RESOURCES (18:20)?
 - B. Should God's people trust in EARTHLY ALLIES (18:21)?
 - C. Would we trust in the ENEMY (18:31-32)?
 - D. Beyond all, God alone is WORTHY of our trust (19:15, 19).

You can't have life without life events that will sometimes sweep over you like a rushing river. In that moment of crisis, you need a solid place to stand—God is that rock! Make calling out to him your first response.



Imagine a difficult life event that your family might face and discuss how you would respond to it. At what point would you turn to prayer? What other things might you do in that situation as you pray? How might God to act in answer to prayer, to fulfill his purposes for his glory? If you have had a recent life event impacting your family, evaluate how you *did* respond with the same questions.

For Further Study, Thought, and Discussion:

1. Are most things in life out of our control? Discuss this, and if it is true then what things are within our control? Who do you really believe is in control, and why?
2. Do you think it is possible to pray with motives that are truly selfless?
3. Some people seem to think that if they have prayed, they have fulfilled their responsibility or need do nothing else, just "leave it to God". What do you think might have happened if Hezekiah had refused the "fig treatment" (2 Kings 20:7)? How does this differ from trusting in things other than God (1 Kings 18:19-35)?
4. We noted that two things happened in the "extra" 15 years Hezekiah was allowed to live that, from a human perspective, seem negative (the Babylonian survey of Hezekiah's treasury, and the birth of Manasseh who would become a wicked king).
 - Why did Hezekiah not see them as negative (2 Kings 20:19)?
 - How do you evaluate righteous Hezekiah's heart at this moment?
 - Why do you think God granted Hezekiah's request for healing?
 - What do you think—is prayer for healing always the best prayer? What alternative might Hezekiah have pursued (see Isaiah's initial counsel, 2 Kings 20:1)?
5. "God's plan is beyond our full understanding." Is this a frustration, or a comfort? What makes it one or the other, and is it ever both?

NEXT WEEK: International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church, and Daniel Called on the Name of the LORD