

A Heart on Fire

Part 3

Luke 3

16 John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. **He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.**

Part 1

Luke 3

- John the Baptist promises that Jesus will bring a Baptism of the Holy Spirit and Fire...
- With that, Jesus is standing with his winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn...
- He will separate the wheat from the chaff...
- This is a picture of the Work of the Holy Spirit in us to separate what is valuable and eternal, from what is invaluable and temporal ...

Part 2:

2 Kings 22 & 23

- King Josiah found the Book of the law in the temple as it was being repaired.
- As a result of Josiah hearing the writings in the book of the law, His heart was responsive and humble before the Lord... 2 Kings 22:19
- Josiah tore his garments and turned to God...
- After that, Josiah burned with the zeal of the Lord for Himself and Judah, restoring the nation back to God...

Story of Hezekiah

2 Kings 18

Now it came to pass in the third year of Hoshea the son of Elah, king of Israel, *that* Hezekiah the son of Ahaz, king of Judah, began to reign.

2 He was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem.

— — —

4 He removed the high places and broke the *sacred* pillars, cut down the wooden image and broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made; for until those days the children of Israel burned incense to it, and called it Nehushtan. **5** *He trusted in the Lord God of Israel*, so that after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor who were before him. **6** *For he held fast to the Lord; he did not depart from following Him*, but kept His commandments, which the Lord had commanded Moses. **7** The Lord was with him; he prospered wherever he went. And he rebelled against the king of Assyria and did not serve him. **8** He subdued the Philistines, as far as Gaza and its territory, from watchtower to fortified city.

- When you look at the entire life of Hezekiah, he wasn't without his mistakes but for the most part he is known as a King that desired to please the Lord...

There is something special about King Hezekiah

- Hezekiah has a heart for the Lord
- 2 Chronicles 29 - Hezekiah Purifies the Temple...
- 2 Chronicles 30 - Hezekiah Reestablishes and Celebrates the Passover throughout Israel and Judah...
- 2 Chronicles 31 - Hezekiah leads the way for Judah tearing down idol worship and reestablished the priesthood and the ministry...

1. Hezekiah had a Heart on Fire for God because he was one who - Responded to God

There were 43 Kings of Israel written about in the Bibles...

20 Kings over Judah (Southern Kingdom)

19 Kings over Israel (Northern Kingdom)

and 3 Kings over the United Kingdom of Israel, 4 if you count Ishbosheth.

Of these 43 Kings only 7 is it said they did right in the eyes of the Lord...

- It makes you wonder what was it about these 7 kings, that made them different from the other 37, other than the obvious?
- Did the others not have the same opportunities to serve God?
- Did God not reach out to the other 37?
- Did God not love the other 37 like he did the 7? **No**

- This is what I notice the difference to be. The 7, who did right, responded to God while the others didn't...

Hezekiah was a man who responded to God...

He trusted in the Lord God of Israel, Vs. 5

For he held fast to the Lord; he did not depart from following Him Vs. 6

I want to be a man that responds to God...

I don't want to ignore Him...

When the Lord knocks, I want to answer...

When the Lord calls, I want to respond...

When the Lord moves by his Holy Spirit I don't want to miss Him...

Do you remember what Jesus says in

Revelation 3:20 NKJV

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

- In other words when He knocks... I don't know how hard he will knock... But I don't want to miss the sound of his knocking...
- When he calls... I don't know how loud his voice will be... But I want to hear His voice...

The plea here is to respond... “If anyone hears My voice and opens the door...”

Then the Lord says; “I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.”

- Miracles happen when we respond to the Lord...
- God's Will begins to unfold when we respond to the Lord...
- Think of all the Disciples that followed Jesus...
- Each one of them responded to the call...
- If they would have missed the moment he called, they could have missed out completely...

What about the Rich Young Ruler:

He said to Jesus, what must I do to inherit eternal life?

Keep the commands, Jesus said and he responded I have since I was a youth...

Jesus said, one thing you lack, sell everything you have and come follow me. “At this the man's face fell. **He went away** sad, because he had great wealth.” Mark 10:22

He could have been one of Jesus' Disciples but he missed his opportunity to respond well to Jesus. **He went away...**

2 Kings 19 - Sennacherib, the King of Assyria Threatens Hezekiah

10 “Thus you shall speak to Hezekiah king of Judah, saying: ‘Do not let your God in whom you trust deceive you, saying, “Jerusalem shall not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria.” **11** Look! You have heard what the kings of Assyria have done to all lands by utterly destroying them; and shall you be delivered? **12** Have the gods of the nations delivered those whom my fathers have destroyed

14 And Hezekiah received the letter from the hand of the messengers, and read it; and Hezekiah went up to the house of the Lord, and spread it before the Lord. **15 Then Hezekiah prayed before the Lord,** and said: “O Lord God of Israel, *the One* who dwells *between* the cherubim, You are God, You alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth. **16** Incline Your ear, O Lord, and hear; open Your eyes, O Lord, and see; and hear the words of Sennacherib, which he has sent to reproach the living God. **17** Truly, Lord, the kings of Assyria have laid waste the nations and their lands, **18** and have cast their gods into the fire; for they *were* not gods, but the work of men’s hands—wood and stone. Therefore they destroyed them. **19** Now therefore, O Lord our God, I pray, save us from his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that You *are* the Lord God, You alone.”

2. Hezekiah had a Heart on Fire for God because he ran to God not from God - Hezekiah was a man of Prayer

It says in 2 Kings 18:7 “The Lord was with him; he prospered wherever he went.”

- No doubt Hezekiah saw great things happen for the Lord...
- But He also saw many difficulties...
- He faced the many threats with the King of Assyria being a major one...
- Later he faces physical illness that almost took his life...
- But through it all Hezekiah, again and again, turns to the Lord in Prayer...

- If anyone wants to have a heart on fire for God, relationship is key...
- Communion with God is needed...
- Communication with God is a necessity...

- I don't think we will ever outgrow the simple need that we have to spend time with God in prayer...
- Billy Graham prayed hard until his dying day...
- The Greatest men that have ever lived probably learned to pray more at the end than they did at the beginning...
- We will never outgrow our need for time with God in prayer...

Prayer takes us deeper...

Prayer allows us to push past the facade of religiosity...

Prayer allows us the opportunity to, not be weak, but vulnerable with God...

Prayer allows us to be authentic with God and honest about things...

Prayer allows us to speak directly to God and to hear directly from God...

One of the single greatest **privileges** we have as born again, sons and daughters of God is we get to talk directly to the one who made the heavens and the earth...

God isn't impressed by much but he is with humble, honest, praying servant...

One of the greatest travesties in Christianity is we often don't pray or we don't pray enough...

Probably one of the scariest verses of scripture in the Bible, to me:

James 4:2

...”ye have not, because ye ask not.”

I don't want the Lord to say to me on that day. “Josh you never asked”

- What we know about Hezekiah, He was a King who prayed

20 Then Isaiah the son of Amoz sent to Hezekiah, saying, “Thus says the Lord God of Israel: ‘**Because you have prayed to Me** against Sennacherib king of Assyria, I have heard.’ **21** This *is* the word which the Lord has spoken concerning him:

— — —

32 “Therefore thus says the Lord concerning the king of Assyria:

‘He shall not come into this city,
Nor shoot an arrow there,
Nor come before it with shield,
Nor build a siege mound against it.

33

By the way that he came,
By the same shall he return;
And he shall not come into this city,’
Says the Lord.

34

‘For I will defend this city, to save it
For My own sake and for My servant David's sake.’ ”

35 And it came to pass on a certain night that the angel of the Lord went out, and killed in the camp of the Assyrians one hundred and eighty-five thousand; and when *people* arose early in the morning, there were the corpses—all dead. **36** So Sennacherib king of Assyria departed and went away, returned *home*, and remained at Nineveh.

Psalm 20:7

Some trust in chariots and some in horses,
but we trust in the name of the Lord our God.

God can do more in 5 minutes than we can do in a year... or 10 years... Or a lifetime...

Closing Song:

Hezekiah is remembered as a Great King:
Hezekiah had a Heart on Fire for God:

Because He Responded to the Lord...
Because He Humbled himself and Prayed...

- 1. Hezekiah had a Heart on Fire for God because he was one who - Responded to God**
- 2. Hezekiah had a Heart on Fire for God because he ran to God not from God - Hezekiah was a man of Prayer**