

The Hezekiah Interlude

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.

Opening Prayer:

Please take time to pray as a group. Pray for our church, for the kingdom, for one another, and for anything else that God lays on your heart. Also, ask God to open hearts and minds to His Word and guide your discussion.

Opening Question:

Share about a time when you faced a situation that seemed overwhelming. How did you respond?

Key Takeaways:

1. Hezekiah demonstrated strong faith in God when facing threats from Assyria.
2. Prayer should be our first instinct, not our last resort, in times of crisis.
3. God can work through both miraculous intervention and practical means (like medicine).
4. Even godly leaders can make mistakes that have long-term consequences.

Discussion Questions:

1. How did Hezekiah's response to the Assyrian threat differ from what we might expect? What can we learn from his example?
2. The sermon mentioned that "prayer should always be our first instinct and never our last resort." Why do you think we often struggle with this? How can we cultivate a habit of turning to God first?
3. Discuss the balance between faith in God's healing and the use of medical treatments. How does the example of Hezekiah's healing inform our approach to health issues?
4. What lessons can we draw from Hezekiah's leadership mistake in showing off his wealth to the Babylonian envoys?
5. Pastor Joel said, "Sometimes our suffering brings greater glory to God than our healing." How do you understand this statement? Have you experienced or witnessed this in your own life? What does it look like to suffer well?
6. How can we discern between genuine friendships and potentially harmful associations, as exemplified in Hezekiah's interaction with the Babylonians?

Practical Applications:

1. This week, commit to making prayer your first response to any challenge or decision you face. Journal about how this impacts your perspective and outcomes.
2. Reflect on areas in your life where you might be tempted to "show off" or brag. Ask God for humility and wisdom in your interactions with others.
3. If you're facing a health issue or other personal crisis, spend time in prayer like Hezekiah did. Consider inviting your small group to pray with and for you.
4. Practice discernment in your relationships. Before sharing personal information or "giving a tour of your treasures," pause and consider the potential long-term implications.

Closing Prayer:

Lord, like Hezekiah, help us to turn to You first in times of trouble. Give us faith to trust You in impossible situations, humility to guard against pride, and wisdom to navigate our relationships. May we learn from both Hezekiah's victories and his mistakes. In Jesus' name, Amen.