

Spread your Letter before the Lord

I. Slide1 **Announce:**

- A. Slide2 JM7
- B. Prayer: Read 1 Chron.16:8-11 first.

II. Slide3 **Intro:** *Spread your Letter before the Lord*

- A. Not all victories are as **dramatic** as this one, **but** this does show you **what to do** when you are attacked by the enemy. [*Hezekiah depended on **the word of God & prayer**]
- B. Outline: *Fighting Our Enemy. Defeating Our Enemy.*

III. Slide4a **FIGHTING OUR ENEMY (1-20)**

- A. 1st Step, *Get Alone with God* (1)
- B. Only the Lord can work in your heart & turn your fears into faith!
 - 1. Phillips Brooks, *Prayer is not conquering God's reluctance, but taking hold of God's willingness.*
 - a) By faith take everything to him in prayer.
 - 2. **Joseph Scriven** in the early 1800's was to be married in the morning, when his *fiancé accidentally drowned* the night before their scheduled wedding.
 - a) *Later...upon learning of his mothers serious illness & unable to be w/her in far-off Dublin, he wrote her a letter of comfort enclosing the words...*
 - b) *What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins & grief's to bear.
What a privilege to carry, Everything to God in prayer.
O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry, Everything to God in prayer.* [Never intended to be a hymn]
- C. Slide4b 2nd Step, *Call on Prayer Support* (2-4)
- D. Calling in backup doesn't mean *you leave*. **No they back you up.**
- E. Hezekiah considered God's glorious name to have been insulted & profaned by the pagan nation.

- F. (4b) He asks simply for Isaiah the prophet to **pray** for the remnant in Judah.
- G. *Slide4c 3rd Step, Do not be Afraid* (5-13)
- H. (5-7) In every **battle**, His word to you is, *Do not be afraid of..*
1. *Why?* He has *everything* under control. *Do you believe that saint?*
 2. What an encouragement when your prayer partner reminds you, *God will answer.*
- I. How did Sennacherib appear before *mere mortals?* (bigger than life, world ruler) How did Sennacherib appear as seen by *the man of faith/Isaiah?*
1. He received a beautiful message of *peace* and *victory*.
- J. It is so amazing, God can you such a *very small thing* to work His will...*he shall hear a rumor.*
- K. (8,9) Sennachereb gets his attention *diverted* from Israel *to* Ethiopia.
- L. (10-13) Sennachereb sends word to Hezekiah.
- M. *Slide4d 4th Step, Get Passionate in Prayer* (14,15)
- N. I love how he shows God, *look what they wrote about you.*
1. Nasty letter...*show it to God*. Unjust Lawsuit against you/your company...*Lord?*
- O. William Cowper, *Satan trembles when he sees the weakest saint upon his knees.*
- P. *Spread your letter before the Lord* (14)
1. God knows the **battles** you fight, **and** He will give you the **help** you need.
 2. Spread the matter before Him in faith, and seek to glorify His name.
 - a) *Can we do the same today?* I think we should.
 - b) *Ask: What can you lay out before the Lord?* a mean text or email (lay your phone before the Lord). *A bill you can't pay.* Nasty letter...*show it to God*. Unjust Lawsuit against you/your company...*Lord?*
- Q. *Slide4e 5th Step, Be Concerned w/God's Glory & Reputation* (16-20)
- R. What do you want God to **see** in your life? **hear** in your life? (16)

- S. More than anything else Hezekiah was concerned for *the Glory & Reputation of God*.
1. How is God's reputation in **your** life?
 2. Is our 1st prayer... **Hallowed be thy name**.
 - a) Or as David said it in 1 Chron.16:10, **Glory in His holy name**.
- T. What fact did Rabshakeh's ignore which invalidated the basic assumption of his argument? He didn't realize the difference between **god** (12) & **God** (10).
- U. What growth in Hezekiah. 1st, in vs.3,4 *what a crisis*. Then in 14-19, *his faith had grown*.

IV. Slide5a **DEFEATING OUR ENEMY (21-37)**

- A. **Answered Prayer** (21-28)
- B. (21) The words of the **enemy** will discourage you, **but** Gods Word will **encourage** you.
- C. **Hezekiah prayed** to the Lord, & the Lord immediately answered through **Isaiah**.
1. Have you ever had God answer your prayer via a friend giving you counsel?
- D. **Slide5b Judah's Blessings** (29-31)
- E. The Assyrian's devastated the countryside.
1. The next 2 years would be difficult; **but** in the 3rd year, they would sow & reap crops as in normal times.
- F. (30) I've always loved the spiritual principle/application here. *Spiritually if we take root downward (digging deep into God's word), we will then bear fruit upward.*
- G. **Slide5c Jerusalem Remains** (32-34)
1. You will continue as *a people, as a city, as a nation...* **for My own sake**.
- H. (32) The Assyrian account of Sennacherib's campaign confirms that he *did not employ siege tactics against Jerusalem*, as he did elsewhere in Judah. **Images of siege works appear on a relief from Lachish.**
- I. **Slide5d Sennacherib's Defeat** (35-36)
- J. **1 angel 185,000 dead**. And he probably didn't break an angelic sweat.

1. Jesus said in Gethsemane, *Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels?* (about 78,000)
 - a) What could they have done??? [If 1 could take out 185,000, *how many could 78,000 take out?* 14,430,000,000]

K. **Slide5e Sennacherib's Death** (37)

L. What swift judgment by God against Sennacherib's army. He escapes to Nineveh... only to be slain in the house of his god. [*irony*: he died in the house of his god, that could not protect him]

M. **Slide6 Sennacherib's record of this campaign** (the 6-sided Prism) states that he left Hezekiah cooped up *like a bird in a cage*. It makes no mention of the catastrophic defeat indicated by the previous verse.

N. **Slide7 The city of Nineveh** was located on the east bank of the Tigris River in NE Mesopotamia (in modern Iraq).

1. The modern city of **Mosul** is located at the ruins of Nineveh.
2. The Assyrian king **Sennacherib** (705–681 bc) **tripled the size of Nineveh and made it the Assyrian capital**.
 - a) He constructed a magnificent **palace** on the SW corner of the city, covered 5 acres.
 - b) It had 71 **rooms**, 2 large **halls** almost 200' long & 40' wide.
 - c) He beautified the city with **parks** and **gardens**, which were watered by a **30-mile-long aqueduct**. It was enclosed by 8 miles of walls with 15 gates.
 - d) The population of Nineveh has been estimated at about **200,000** during his reign.
 - e) Nineveh was **destroyed** in 612bc by a military alliance of *Medes, Scythians, and Babylonians*.

O. What swift judgment by God against Sennacherib's army. He escapes to Nineveh... only to be slain in the house of his god. [*irony*: he died in the house of his god, that could not protect him]

P. What does **the whole story** teaches us **as** to the difference which **faith in God** makes in **individual and national life**?

Q. **Slide8a/b** Oswald Chambers, *Trustfulness is based on confidence in God, whose ways I do not understand. If I did, there would be no need for trust.*

1. Scottish Baptist *and* Holiness Movement, evangelist and teacher, best known for the devotional *My Utmost for His Highest*.
- R. William Carey (missionary to India), *The future is as bright as the promises of God*.