

HONEST PRAYERS

Praying Through Tears, 2 Kings 20:1-7

Hezekiah

2 Kings 20:1-11 (KJV) ¹ *In those days was Hezekiah sick unto death. And the prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz came to him, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Set thine house in order; for thou shalt die, and not live.*

- Hezekiah was the king of Judah and he ascended to the throne at age 25
- He was one of the greatest kings of Judah
- During his reign, Hezekiah purified and repaired the Temple in Jerusalem
- He demolished all the idols, high places and altars for worship to other gods
- He reformed the priesthood of the Temple
- He centralized worship to the temple in Jerusalem and resumed Passover
- As soon as Hezekiah was making progress through that crisis, *another* crisis appeared
- Hezekiah gets sick
- Hezekiah's illness was *in those days* of him reforming Judah
- Have you ever had *one of those days*?
- Hezekiah's illness is believed to be boils or inflammation of the skin
- Isaiah the prophet tells Hezekiah that the Lord said, "**Set thine house in order; for thou shalt die, and not live.**"
- God was telling Hezekiah to get his 'personal affairs in order' because he was going to die
- This is a call the family together, check your will, verify your life insurance, he's not going to be here with us much longer
- God was telling Hezekiah death was near and there would be no recovery from this sickness
- Hezekiah's illness will be terminal unless there is some *supernatural* intervention

Hezekiah's Prayer

² Then he turned his face to the wall, and prayed unto the LORD, saying, ³ I beseech thee, O LORD, remember now how I have walked before thee in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done that which is good in thy sight. And Hezekiah wept sore.

- Hezekiah heard the news and *turned his face to the wall* and prayed
- Turning one's face to the wall is a way of having a private moment of prayer with God even though other people may be in the room
- Hezekiah *immediately* begins to pray to God
- In that moment, Hezekiah pours out his heart to the Lord

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- Hezekiah reminded God of three key things in his prayer:
 1. He was faithful in following the Lord
 2. He was loyal and completely devoted to the Lord
 3. He behaved righteously before the Lord
- Hezekiah is praying like this because of God's promises to David, Solomon and Solomon's offspring **2 Samuel 7:14-16 (NLT2) 14 I will be his father, and he will be my son. If he sins, I will correct and discipline him with the rod, like any father would do. 15 But my favor will not be taken from him as I took it from Saul, whom I removed from your sight. 16 Your house and your kingdom will continue before me for all time, and your throne will be secure forever."**
- Hezekiah is also asking for God to honor His promise of long life for those who walk uprightly **Exodus 20:12 (KJV) 12 Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.**
- Hezekiah was not a perfect person, but he wants God to honor His word
- Hezekiah wept profusely as he poured out his heart to God
- Hezekiah tears were a result of the weight of the news, the uncertainty what will happen to people of Judah with their proneness to backsliding to false worship and who will succeed him and a submission to the will of God

God's Answer to Hezekiah's Prayer

⁴ And it came to pass, afore Isaiah was gone out into the middle court, that the word of the LORD came to him, saying, ⁵ Turn again, and tell Hezekiah the captain of my people, Thus saith the LORD, the God of David thy father, I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will heal thee: on the third day thou shalt go up unto the house of the LORD. ⁶ And I will add unto thy days fifteen years; and I will deliver thee and this city out of the hand of the king of Assyria; and I will defend this city for mine own sake, and for my servant David's sake. ⁷ And Isaiah said, Take a lump of figs. And they took and laid it on the boil, and he recovered.

- Isaiah was leaving the palace, but before he could leave the palace grounds, God stopped him and said, "Turn around"
- Go back to Hezekiah and tell him that the God of thy father David said:
 - I heard your prayer
 - I've seen your tears

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- I will heal thee within three days so you can worship Me at the Temple
- I've added 15 years to your life
- I will deliver the city out of the hands of the king of Assyria
- I will defend this city for My sake and my servant David's sake
- Then Isaiah told Hezekiah to take a lump of figs and press it onto the boil and Hezekiah *immediately* recovered
- God answered Hezekiah with *more than* he asked for
- Hezekiah only asked God to *remember* him and his faithfulness, God *healed* him, God *added 15 years* to his life and God promised to *protect and defend* God's people
- Why did God answer Hezekiah's prayer? God answered because:
 1. Hezekiah prayed **James 4:2 (KJV)** "**... ye have not, because ye ask not.**"
 2. God honors a godly life, "*I have heard thy prayer,...*"
 3. God loves us and responds to what we go through "*I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears:...*"
 4. God honors His promises, what God promises, He will perform, "*I will deliver thee and this city out of the hand of the king of Assyria; and I will defend this city for mine own sake, and for my servant David's sake.*"
 5. God honored Hezekiah's leadership of God people, "*Hezekiah the captain of my people*"