

A MATTER OF TRUST

Whatever comes our way, we must always put our trust in God.

KEY POINTS

- ❖ Today, let's "stir up [our] pure minds by way of remembrance" (2 Peter 3:1 KJV) with this statement: *Whatever comes our way, we must always put our trust in God!*
- ❖ In 2 Kings 18, we read about Hezekiah, the young king who was set apart by the way he trusted in God. From the start of his reign, he served God wholeheartedly and got rid of idolatry and false religion in his kingdom. The scripture then tells us that the Lord was with him and prospered him and he went on to free Judah from serving foreign powers.
- ❖ It would be easy to say that Hezekiah trusted in God because of all the blessings he received, but as we read the story, we see that it's actually the other way around. His trust in God *preceded* his blessings and military conquests.
- ❖ And trusting God needs to be our first priority also.
- ❖ Now, as good a king as Hezekiah was, and despite his uncommonly high trust in God, he was still a human being with significant fears and uncertainties.
- ❖ In the sixth year of Hezekiah's reign, still early in his tenure, trouble came in the form of the Assyrian, Sennacherib, and his army, who swooped in from the east and overran Samaria—the capital of the northern kingdom of Israel. Then, eight years later, here came Sennacherib again, this time with his eye firmly set on Judah—the southern kingdom of Israel.
- ❖ As the story unfolds in 2 Kings, we see that the Assyrians were indeed a fearsome people who had conquered many nations. Now they came, captured all the fortified strong cities in Judah and were on their way to Jerusalem.
- ❖ It was at this point that Hezekiah sent a message to Sennacherib, saying: 'I have done wrong, I have offended you, and I have rebelled against your order to pay tribute and taxes. But just tell me what I owe, I'll pay up and you can go back home.'
- ❖ Sennacherib sent Hezekiah the bill and he took all the silver out of the Temple, stripped the gold off the Temple doors and sent it all to Sennacherib.
- ❖ To recap:
 - Hezekiah was diligent in keeping the commandments of the Lord (vv. 3, 6)
 - He eliminated idolatry and false religion in Judah (v. 4)
 - He trusted God more than any other king in Judah's history (v. 5)
 - God prospered him, gave him victory over his enemies and empowered him to quit paying tribute to Assyria (v. 7)
- ❖ But now, in the midst of his present crisis, it seems there were some critical points Hezekiah didn't take into consideration:

KEY SCRIPTURES: 2 Kings 18:1-6;
 2 Samuel 22:2-3, 31; Isaiah 26:1-4;
 2 Corinthians 1:8-10; Ephesians 1:3-14

- When God allowed the northern kingdom of Israel to be overcome by Sennacherib, it was because of their refusal to hear and obey His word and keep His commandments. They were living sinful lives, not at all trusting in God or serving Him.
- When Sennacherib came into Judah, there's no mention at all of Hezekiah praying to the God he trusted! He spoke about war and sought alliances with other nations to help him, but there was no mention of prayer.
- ❖ The point is, we need to trust in God at all times, in all situations and for all things. If a man like Hezekiah could slip into patterns of trusting in man rather than trusting in God, we need to be watchful and mindful that we don't slip away from our place of trust in God.
- ❖ How many times have we seen storm clouds rise around us—or even close friends and family members—and panicked? How often have we ourselves been faced with imminent disaster and sought help from other sources before turning to God?
- ❖ This doesn't necessarily mean that we have backslidden or sinned against God. But it *does* mean that we need constant reminders to put our full and complete trust in God!
- ❖ In Isaiah 26, we see that even in the midst of judgment, God protects those who trust in Him (vv. 1-4). In 2 Corinthians 1, the apostle Paul reminds us to trust in God and not even to trust in ourselves (vv. 8-10). And Ephesians 1:3-14 gives us the greatest reason why our trust needs to be in Jesus Christ: *for our eternal salvation* (v. 14). Nothing is more important.
- ❖ He is our creator. He is our Saviour. Our anchor. Our deliverer. Our provider. Our sustainer. He is our God and "In God We Trust."

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Everybody has faced stressful situations at one point or another. In the past, when you faced a particularly difficult situation, what was your first reaction (e.g. worry, pray, try to fix it, etc.)?
2. Assessing your response, would you say that you trust in yourself/others more or did you trust in God? If you had a "do over", what would you do differently?

PRAYER TIME

Lord, help me to put my trust in You and to always remember "my heavenly Father watches over me."

Start-up: Is there something you own that you trust to work every single time? What is this item and what makes you keep coming back to it?

WEEK OF SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2021

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

- ✓ (Reminds me/Confirms) 💡 (New idea) 🧠 (Think about)
- 👉 (Do this) ❤️ (Speaks to my heart) ↔️ (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
 CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE
 WORD