

**Third Presbyterian Church**  
**Bible Study – 2 Kings 20**  
**One Day to Live**

**2 Kings 20:1-21 (NIV)**

<sup>1</sup> In those days Hezekiah became ill and was at the point of death. The prophet Isaiah son of Amoz went to him and said, "This is what the LORD says: Put your house in order, because you are going to die; you will not recover." <sup>2</sup> Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed to the LORD, <sup>3</sup> "Remember, O LORD, how I have walked before you faithfully and with wholehearted devotion and have done what is good in your eyes." And Hezekiah wept bitterly. <sup>4</sup> Before Isaiah had left the middle court, the word of the LORD came to him:

<sup>5</sup> "Go back and tell Hezekiah, the leader of my people, 'This is what the LORD, the God of your father David, says: I have heard your prayer and seen your tears; I will heal you. On the third day from now you will go up to the temple of the LORD. <sup>6</sup> I will add fifteen years to your life. And I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria. I will defend this city for my sake and for the sake of my servant David.'"

<sup>7</sup> Then Isaiah said, "Prepare a poultice of figs." They did so and applied it to the boil, and he recovered.

<sup>8</sup> Hezekiah had asked Isaiah, "What will be the sign that the LORD will heal me and that I will go up to the temple of the LORD on the third day from now?" <sup>9</sup> Isaiah answered, "This is the LORD's sign to you that the LORD will do what he has promised: Shall the shadow go forward ten steps, or shall it go back ten steps?"

<sup>10</sup> "It is a simple matter for the shadow to go forward ten steps," said Hezekiah. "Rather, have it go back ten steps." <sup>11</sup> Then the prophet Isaiah called upon the LORD, and the LORD made the shadow go back the ten steps it had gone down on the stairway of Ahaz. <sup>12</sup> At that time Merodach-Baladan son of Baladan king of Babylon sent Hezekiah letters and a gift, because he had heard of Hezekiah's illness. <sup>13</sup> Hezekiah received the messengers and showed them all that was in his storehouses--the silver, the gold, the spices and the fine oil--his armory and everything found among his treasures. There was nothing in his palace or in all his kingdom that Hezekiah did not show them. <sup>14</sup> Then Isaiah the prophet went to King Hezekiah and asked, "What did those men say, and where did they come from?" "From a distant land," Hezekiah replied. "They came from Babylon."

<sup>15</sup> The prophet asked, "What did they see in your palace?" "They saw everything in my palace," Hezekiah said. "There is nothing among my treasures that I did not show them." <sup>16</sup> Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, "Hear the word of the LORD: <sup>17</sup> The time will surely come when everything in your palace, and all that your fathers have stored up until this day, will be carried off to Babylon. Nothing will be left, says the LORD. <sup>18</sup> And some of your descendants, your own flesh and blood, that will be born to you, will be taken away, and they will become eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon."<sup>19</sup> "The word of the LORD you have spoken is good," Hezekiah replied. For he thought, "Will there not be peace and security in my lifetime?"

<sup>20</sup> As for the other events of Hezekiah's reign, all his achievements and how he made the pool and the tunnel by which he brought water into the city, are they not written in the book of the annals of the kings of Judah?

<sup>21</sup> Hezekiah rested with his fathers. And Manasseh his son succeeded him as king.

**Questions**

1. Explain prayer to someone who is unfamiliar to prayer in terms they would understand.
  - A. How has prayer been proven powerful in your life?
  - B. Why in your opinion don't Christians pray more?

- C. What needs to happen for your prayer life to grow?
  - D. How do you discern whether the word that is delivered to you regarding your prayer request is actually from God?
  - E. What is the importance of bible study to your prayer life?
2. If someone told you that you only had one day to live describe in the context to the sermon what does “get our house in order prompt you to do today because tomorrow is not promised:
- A. Clean up your house
  - B. Repair Broken Relationships/ let go of “Grude to the Grave” mentality
  - C. Get some life or at least some burial insurance
  - D. Prepare a Will
  - E. Get sermons about physical care (taking better care of our bodies)
3. Sermon Reference: what does going to your Island of Patmos (truly seeking the face of God) look like for you? Why is this activity important?
4. Re Read Vs 12-13. In what company might it be wise for you to resist talking about your "blessings" because it might stir up envy or covetousness in your listeners?
- A. Do you discern from this account that we should be silent if God has blessed with an abundance of earthly treasures? Why or why not
  - B. Describe a scenario where it would be appropriate to share with someone your earthly treasure blessings from God.
5. We are all terminal we just don't know when, but the halleluiah moment is that your present Condition does not have to be your Conclusion!!
- A. Give testimony, encouragement and ministry among the group of how this resonates in your spirit.
6. Share your main takeaway from this account insofar as what needs to be different in your life walk with/for God.

## C. The Righteous Reign of Hezekiah (Part 3)—His Terminal Illness and Miraculous Healing: The Power of Prayer and the Danger of Pride, 20:1-21

**(20:1-21) Introduction—Flesh, Fact, Is Corruptible and Decaying—Flesh, Needs of, Deliverance from Corruption—Prayer, Results, Deliverance—Pride, Results, Condemnation and Judgment:** in looking at ourselves as human beings, we realize that we are mere creatures of flesh and bone, made of decaying matter. In addition, our flesh is subject to numerous illnesses and injuries, many of which can severely cripple or shorten our lives. When we consider that we live in bodies of flesh and also in a corruptible world, a great need is immediately apparent. What is this need? The need to be delivered from this corruptible flesh and from all the diseases and accidents that happen to us in life. When disease strikes or an accident happens that severely injure us, we need a deliverer, a rescuer, a savior.

In such times, God's Holy Word gives us wonderful news: the Lord is available to help us. The Lord will rescue and deliver us from this corruptible flesh and through all the diseases and injuries that happen to us. *Through* our prayers—our calling out to God for help—and *because* of our prayers, God says He will deliver us. The importance of prayer is one of the great lessons taught in this present passage of Scripture.

But there is also another great lesson: the danger of pride. Nothing will condemn our souls before God quicker than the sin of pride. These two great lessons are clearly demonstrated in the life of King Hezekiah, the subject of the present Scripture. This is: *The Righteous Reign of Hezekiah (Part 3)—His Terminal Illness and Miraculous Healing: The Power of Prayer and the Danger of Pride, 20:1-21*.

**1. (20:1-11) Prayer, Power of—Sickness, Healed by—Illness, Healed by—Disease, Healed by—Healing, Source of, Prayer—Hezekiah, Terminal Illness of:** shockingly, right after the deliverance of Jerusalem from the Assyrian threat, Hezekiah became deathly sick and was soon to die. The actual date of Hezekiah's death was in 686 b.c., which means that his illness took place somewhere around 701 b.c., in the very year of Assyria's invasion (see Isaiah 38). In facing his illness, Hezekiah shows us the power of prayer.

1. Right before Hezekiah's death, the Lord sent Isaiah to the king with the message that he was to put his affairs in order. For he was soon to die (2 Kings 20:1).

2. But note how Hezekiah received the fatal news: he immediately turned his face to the wall away from Isaiah and began to pray to the Lord (2 Kings 20:2-3). He reminded the Lord of three facts:

⇒ He was faithful in following the Lord.

⇒ He was loyal and wholly devoted to the Lord.

⇒ He had behaved righteously before the Lord.

Then Hezekiah began to weep bitterly (2 Kings 20:3). By weeping, he was indicating that his heart was broken, that he was submitting his life to the Lord's will.

3. In compassion, the Lord immediately answered the prayer of King Hezekiah (2 Kings 20:4-7). Obviously, Isaiah had already left the room heading for home when the king began to pray. For before Isaiah had left the palace courtyard, a message came to him from the Lord (2 Kings 20:4-7). Isaiah was to return immediately to Hezekiah with a second message. God had heard his prayer and seen his brokenness; therefore the Lord would heal him. On the third day he would arise, go up to the temple, and worship the Lord. In fact, the Lord would add 15 years to his life and would deliver him and Jerusalem from Assyria (2 Kings 20:6). For God's honor and

for David's sake, the Lord would defend the capital and not allow it to fall to the Assyrians. Note how this promise points toward Hezekiah's being struck with the terminal illness during the actual siege of Jerusalem by the Assyrians.

Turning to the servants, Isaiah instructed them to prepare an ointment of fig leaves to place upon the king. In obedience to the prophet, they nursed the king and he soon recovered.

4. Hezekiah, needing assurance from the Lord, requested a sign from Isaiah that he would recover and worship in the temple on the third day (2 Kings 20:8-11). The Lord proved His promise and granted the request of the sick king. He gave Hezekiah a choice that involved moving the sun's shadow on the king's sundial either 10 degrees backward or 10 degrees forward. Choosing the more difficult miracle, Hezekiah asked for the shadow to move backward 10 degrees (2 Kings 20:10). As requested, the prophet Isaiah called upon the Lord and the miracle occurred (2 Kings 20:11). The shadow of the sundial actually moved back 10 degrees.

**Thought 1**. There is no limit to the power of prayer, for there is no limit to God's power. God is omnipotent, all-powerful, possessing perfect and unlimited power to do anything He desires. But God is not only omnipotent, He is omniscient, knowing all things. Nothing is hidden from God, out of His sight. God sees and knows all things.

This message of God's omnipotence and omniscience is wonderful news, for God knows when serious illnesses strikes us or crises confront us. And God has the power to handle our serious illnesses and the severe crises. When we face these mammoth problems, our responsibility is to pray, turning our face toward the Lord and crying out to Him. If we are sincere and willing to turn our lives totally over to Him, God will hear and answer our prayer. In some cases, He will miraculously heal us. In other cases, He will give us the strength to walk through the illness or crisis victoriously. Through prayer there is nothing—absolutely nothing—that can defeat or overcome us, not even death itself. God knows the very number of hairs upon our head—everything about us—and God has the power to help us. Listen to what God's Word says about the *power of prayer*.

**"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you" (Matthew 7:7).**

**"Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive *them*, and ye shall have *them*" (Mark 11:24).**

**"If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you" (John 15:7).**

**"Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full" (John 16:24).**

**"For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong" (2 Cor. 12:8-10).**

**"Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us" (Ephes. 3:20).**

**"And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Confess *your* faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit" (James 5:15-18).**

**2. (20:12-21) Pride, Example of— Arrogance, Example of— Self-Exaltation, Example of— Hezekiah,**

**Pride of:** although Hezekiah was righteous and totally committed to the Lord, he was not perfect. Soon after his illness, he unwisely entertained some ambassadors from Babylon, and in his entertaining he exposed a heart of pride and self-exaltation. Because of his pride, the judgment of God was pronounced upon him and a prediction made concerning the future destiny of the nation. In a very straightforward manner, Scripture shares the story of the king's pride.

1. Hearing about Hezekiah's deathly illness, the crown prince of Babylon, Berodach-Baladan, sent a letter and some gifts to Hezekiah as an expression of his concern (2 Kings 20:12). Why would the crown prince of Babylon, the soon to be superpower of the world, want to express his concern for Hezekiah? *Second Chronicles* tells us that his curiosity was aroused when he heard about the miraculous healing of Hezekiah and the movement of the sundial (2 Chron. 32:31). But additional information is supplied by the Jewish historian Josephus. He says that the king of Babylon sought Hezekiah as a friend and ally.
2. Whatever Berodach-Baladan's purpose, Hezekiah gave the ambassadors a warm reception (2 Kings 20:13). With pride swelling up in his heart, Hezekiah entertained the envoys by sharing the story of his healing and then foolishly, pridefully showed them his vast wealth. There was nothing in his palace or throughout the kingdom that he failed to show them. Obviously, this included the strength of his military as well as the wealth found in the palace and temple treasuries.
3. As would be expected, the Lord immediately rebuked Hezekiah through the prophet Isaiah (2 Kings 20:14-15). Isaiah confronted the king and questioned him about his entertainment of the ambassadors. Making no attempt to hide his actions, Hezekiah freely shared what he had done. He had shown them the wealth, the treasuries of the nation.
4. Sadly, but with the authority of God Himself, the prophet Isaiah pronounced God's judgment upon Hezekiah and Judah. Due to Hezekiah's pride and the sins of the nation down through the centuries, Judah would face condemnation of God (2 Kings 20:16-18). Some day in the near future, Babylon would conquer Judah and carry off all the wealth of the nation. What the Babylonian ambassadors had seen—all the wealth of the nation—would not be forgotten. Future leaders of Babylon would covet the wealth shown by Hezekiah in his moment of self-exaltation and pride. Moreover, some of Hezekiah's descendents would be exiled to Babylon and be forced to serve as eunuchs (devoted slaves) in the palace of Babylon's king.
5. In a spirit of repentance, Hezekiah humbly accepted God's judgment (2 Kings 20:19). But in his private thoughts, he was wondering and asking himself if he would finish out his days in peace and security.
6. His achievements in life are recorded in the book *The History of the Kings of Judah* (2 Kings 20:20-21). Also recorded in the book is his major building project, that of constructing a water tunnel for Jerusalem. After his death, he was succeeded by his son Manasseh (2 Kings 20:21).

**Thought 1.** Pride is a terrible evil. When a person begins to look upon himself as being superior to or better than other people, he...

- exalts himself over others, applauding his own efforts
- feels that he should be preferred over others
- considers himself to be more valuable than others

A person who is full of pride and self-exaltation is often arrogant, overbearing, and disrespectful. He frequently puts other people down, degrades, shames, embarrasses, stifles, harms, subjects, and in some cases even enslaves others. For this reason, God strongly condemns pride and the exalting of ourselves above others:

**"And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted" (Matthew 23:12).**

**"Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits" (Romans 12:16).**

**"And if any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know" (1 Cor. 8:2).**

**"For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself" (Galatians 6:3).**