

The Humbling of Pride

Text: Isaiah 39:1-8

Date: 6-5-22 10:30 AM

I. Hezekiah's foolish choices demonstrate his heart lifted up in pride (Isa. 39:2).

Why did Hezekiah face this situation? We find that God allowed this plight to unfold in Hezekiah's life to test him (II Chron. 32:32) to see how the king would respond and what truly was in his heart. We know that the king had trusted the Lord and reformed Judah. We know that he had prayed and trusted God in his near death experience. But now the king would again be tested to see if he would truly trust God. And let me add, the king would be tested again when the Assyrians came knocking on the door.

What God found during this testing is that a heart of pride had overtaken the king. We, too, must be aware of how easily pride can creep into our hearts and lives. Here are some tests you can do to evaluate your own life to see if you have a heart of pride:

****Do I think I am responsible for the possessions and wealth I have?**

****Do I forget who gave me the victory?**

****Do I make foolish choices because of pride?**

II. Isaiah's convicting questions for the king (Isa. 39:3-4).

- 1) What did the men say? No answer
- 2) Where did they come from? From a far country of Babylon, even to see me.
- 3) What did they see in your palace? Everything

The convicting questions implicate that the king is trusting man instead of God. Hezekiah is no different than his father, Ahaz, at this point. Ahaz had been "willing to defend the theocracy and so to procure the fulfillment of the Messianic promises through human means. . ." (Young 535). In this he is acting more like a heathen king than the king under God's rule.

So what is so bad about this? Hezekiah chose to give audience to a heathen nation and opened up Jehovah's temple for inspection. Eventually Babylon would become the enemy of Judah. In his pride and weakness Hezekiah placed his hope and trust in one enemy in an effort to defeat another enemy.

III. The consequences of pride in God's people (Isa. 39:5-7).

- The first consequence would be that the nations' wealth would be guaranteed to be taken away and *nothing will be left*.
- The second consequence is that Hezekiah's descendants would be taken captive. At this time the king had no sons.
- The third consequence is that some of the descendants would be forced to serve in the palace of the heathen king.

God did not deal favorably with the pride of the nation or the foolishness of Hezekiah. God will take both the king's treasures and his descendants captive. They will be taken by a nation that will be stronger than Judah. Even though God grants Hezekiah mercy, the people of Judah will spiral downward, rebel, and be given over to the enemy.

IV. The right response to pride (Isa. 39:8).

In this chapter we have a faithful, God-fearing prophet who spoke the word of God no matter the situation. Isaiah is truly a faithful messenger of God. We also have a king who was willing to acknowledge his pride, humble himself, and obey God, His word, and His prophet.

The best response to pride is to confess our sin immediately and humble ourselves so that we can have fellowship with God and a relationship with other people.