
Because You Prayed to Me...

ISAIAH 37

Lean In

1. Do you have a go to prayer person? Are you a go to person that people can count on for prayer?

Look Down

Read Isaiah 37

2. Where did Hezekiah send his servants, and what request did they make (vv 1-4)?
3. What promise did God make in response (vv 5-7)?
4. What insults have the Assyrians made against God (see 36:18-20, 37:10-12, 24-25)?
5. On what basis does Hezekiah believe God will help him (2 Chronicles 32:6-8)?
6. Read Hezekiah's prayer in Isaiah 37:15-20.
 - a) What strikes you about this prayer?
 - b) What attributes of God did Hezekiah remind himself as he began his prayer to God? Why does he dwell on these?
 - c) At what point of the prayer does he actually make a request? Why so late in the prayer?
 - d) Why did Hezekiah know that the track record of the gods of other nations had no bearing on what would happen to Jerusalem (v.19)?
 - e) What was the end goal of Hezekiah's prayer (v.20)?
 - f) What are the similarities between this prayer and the prayer of the early believers in Acts 4:23-30?
 - g) In what way(s) are those prayers similar to or different from the way most Christians (you) pray in comparable situations?
7. According to v.21, why did God intervene in this situation?
8. In his response to Hezekiah's prayer, by what images does God convey his authority over all the nations (vv.26-29)? What lesson is this event for Judah? For Assyria?
9. If you were living in Jerusalem, how would you react when you heard that 185,000 Assyrians soldiers had died (v.36) in response to a man's prayer?

Look Out

10. Have you ever witnessed God intervene in your life or in the life of somebody else "because you (or somebody else) have prayer to [Him]?" What happened?

Look In

11. Let's be honest: Do you actually believe that prayer makes a difference? Why or why not? How would your answer compare to your answer to question 7 above?
12. How do you reconcile God's Sovereignty and His invitation for us to engage Him in prayer?
13. What situation (s) or aspect(s) of your life do you need to 'spread before the Lord'?
14. Take some time to spread them before the Lord. Write out a prayer based on the prayer in Hezekiah's prayer in v.15-20. Which attributes of God do you need to invoke? What is the end goal of your prayer?
15. In what respects can you take Hezekiah's and Isaiah's responses to Sennacherib as models for your own response to intimidation?
16. Let's commit to sign up and pray during one of the 15 minutes prayer slots on our church website <http://thepeopleschurch.ca/prayer-chain/>

Digging deeper

1. Read 2 Kings 18-19. How would you explain Hezekiah's move from trust (18:5) to fear (18:14) to despair (19:1-4) to faith (19:14-19)
2. Have you ever been in a situation where you like Hezekiah have been torn in two directions by two sets of "words": God's invitation to trust in Him and "worldly" wisdom that counseled you to take matters into your own hands? How did you respond and why??