

## Sunday Morning Message

August 13, 2023

Title – *“What to Do When You Do Not Know What to Do”*

Text – Isaiah 36 – 37; 2 Chronicles 20:1 - 12

Congregational Reading – Isaiah 37:14 - 20

### Introduction

Occasionally, in life you will be faced with a situation, perhaps a big problem that is way bigger than your ability to deal with, and you simply will not know what to do. That is exactly what is taking place in our text. Hezekiah is the king of the southern Kingdom of Judah, and his nation is faced with, not just a difficult situation, but an impossible one. There is no human remedy, no quick fix. The crazy thing is that it happens this king, not once, but twice. What do you do when life deals you a problem like that?

### Transition

In our message today, we are going to examine this passage in Isaiah, along with another historical passage in 2 Chronicles 20, involving another king, Jehoshaphat, and we will see just what they did when they did not know what they should do.

The passage in Isaiah that we are examining today comes from the section of Isaiah that is known as an historical interlude, which includes chapters 36 - 39. The Book of Isaiah transitions from Prophetic to Historical in these four chapters. The events from these chapters all involve King Hezekiah around 700 BC. Much of what is contained in these four chapters can also be found in 2 Chronicles 29 – 30 and in 2 Kings 18 – 19.

Chapter thirty-six begins with the Assyrians as the world power dominating the area surrounding Jerusalem, and chapter thirty-nine introduces us to the next world power, Babylon, which will eventually conquer Jerusalem and entire nation of Judah.

#### I. Hezekiah’s Problem (Chapter 36)

We read about Hezekiah and Jerusalem’s problem in chapter thirty-six. The great Assyrian army was had already destroyed and conquered the northern kingdom of Israel, and as they worked their way southward toward the prized City of Jerusalem, they had also taken some of the villages and towns belonging to the southern Kingdom of Judah.

As we read through the chapter thirty-six, we will notice many of the characteristics of Judah’s enemy that can also be seen in all of God’s enemies.

Read chapter thirty-six.

#### A. Characteristic One (vs. 1 – 6) The enemies of God and God’s people are filled with pride.

*"18 Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall." (Proverbs 16:18)*

*"16 These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: 17 A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, 18 An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, 19 A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren." (Proverbs 6:16-19)*

*"13 The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate." (Proverbs 8:13)*

Pride is self-exaltation.

Pride is living independently from God.

Pride is an attempt to make God look smaller by making self bigger.

*"4 The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts." (Psalm 10:4)*

King Sennacherib as well as his whole nation are like Satan. He was also filled with pride:

*"12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! 13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. 15 Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit." (Isaiah 14:12-15)*

### **B. The Enemies of God's People are Often Misinformed (v. 7)**

Hezekiah only destroyed the pagan altars that were in opposition to the true worship of God. The Assyrians did not understand what the true worship of God was all about. They mistakenly thought their victory against the northern kingdom meant that they were superior to the God of the Jewish people. What they did not understand was that God allowed them to come into the northern kingdom to destroy it as a judgment because the northern kingdom had forsaken God.

### **C. The Enemies of God's People are Often Intimidating (vs. 8 – 13)**

These people were bullies. Notice the crude language in v. 12.

### **D. The Enemies of God's People are Often Enticing (vs 14 – 21)**

Notice that they try to appeal directly to the people by telling them that life will be so much better for them under Assyrian control. Satan will often try to entice us to leave the will of God by making a sinful and wicked lifestyle look pleasurable.

**E. The Enemies of God’s People Will Always Lose in the Long Run and Even in the Short Run if God’s People Will Rely on Him.**

**II. God’s Provision (Chapter 37)**

**A. Hezekiah’s Reaction - Humility (36:22; 37:1 – 2)**

Here is also where we will see a tremendous contrast. King Sennacherib and Assyria were filled with pride, but Hezekiah and Judah were brought very low. This situation brought them low. Sometimes God must allow situations in life to come along that will kill our pride.

*"10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up." (James 4:10)*

Notice that Hezekiah goes into the Lord’s house when he was faced with this huge problem. Oftentimes when God’s people are going through difficulties they avoid God’s house.

**B. Hezekiah’s Request to God through Isaiah (vs. 3 – 5)**

Hezekiah sends the messengers to the man of God and asks him to pray.

When you are going through difficult situations, it is a good idea to go to a man of God, a spiritual leader in your life like a pastor, youth pastor, Sunday School teacher, and get some advice about what to do, and allow them to pray with you about the situation.

**C. Isaiah’s Reply (vs. 6 – 7)**

**D. Rabshakeh’s Return (vs. 8 – 13)**

**E. Hezekiah’s Continued Reliance Upon God (vs. 14 – 20)**

Notice that Hezekiah once again goes back into the House of the Lord, and this time he takes the threatening letter sent from Assyria and “spreads it before the Lord.”

**F. God’s Reassurance Through Isaiah (vs. 21 – 35)**

**G. God’s Revenge (vs. 36 – 38)**

**1. The Destruction of the Army (v. 36)**

**2. The Death of Sennacherib (vs. 37 – 38)**

**Conclusion**

We have seen that twice Hezekiah took a huge problem to the Lord because he simply did not know what to do. Let’s quickly look at another Judean king who does the same thing in a similar situation.

Turn to 2 Chronicles 20:1 – 12

Notice v. 12:

*"12 O our God, wilt thou not judge them? for we have no might against this great company that cometh against us; neither know we what to do: but our eyes are upon thee." (2 Chronicles 20:12)*

What do you do when you do not know what to do?

Turn your eyes upon the Lord.

What do you do when you have a big problem; one that is much bigger than your ability to handle?

Do what Hezekiah did and "spread it before the Lord."

But you do not have to wait for a big problem. You can go to the Lord now for help with all your problems, big or small.

You can also open the Word of God and see what principles that you can glean that will help you to navigate through life, showing you what to do. It is a great practice to spend time daily in the Word of God to learn the way God thinks so that when life's little problems come your way you will know how to handle them. Applying God's Word to your life will also help you to avoid many problems in the first place. It will provide preventive maintenance.

God is the answer to all of life's questions and problems, and if you are a child of God through faith in Jesus Christ, you have God's Holy Spirit living within in you who will help you figure out all of questions and issues that life will throw at you. Don't try to live life on your own. Allow God to lead you. Place God as the head of your home.

*"5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. 6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." (Proverbs 3:5-6)*

What do you do when you do not know what to do?

Go to God Directly through Prayer

Go to God's House – Don't Run from It

Go to God's Man – Get Help