

**WATCH OUT
HEZEKIAH, YOU'RE
SMELLING
YOURSELF!**

2 KINGS 20:12-19

(MARCHING THROUGH 2KINGS)

OBSERVATIONS

- So often when many reach the height of their success, suddenly the bottom falls out
(Bill Cosby, R. Kelly, Harvey Weinstein, Tiger Woods, Pee Wee Herman, Michael Vick, Martha Stewart)
- Over and over again, the Bible's truths are confirmed
“Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty (ego containing) spirit before a fall.” Proverbs 16:18

OBSERVATIONS

- In 2 Kings 19, God had just massacred 185,000 of King Hezekiah's "external enemies," because of his relationship with Him and by answering his prayers in a situation of distress
- In 2 Kings 20:1-6, at the beginning of the chapter, God had taken care of King Hezekiah's "invisible enemy," by resolving his terminal medical illness
- In both of these instances, Hezekiah's relationship with God was pivotal (as with us; Proverbs 30:5-6)
- Even when God doesn't remove the affliction, with consistent prayer, He remains there to help us deal with it, 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

BEWARE OF “GIFTS!”

- Now that Judah is a formidable rival, the King of Babylon begins to ingratiate his nation with King Hezekiah (he uses Hezekiah’s recent illness as an opportunity to gain his favor)
- Verse 12, chapter 20 says he sent letters of comfort and a “present”(GIFT) to encourage their “*relationship*”
- Understand that some “gifts” you get have behind them “*ulterior motives*”
- Calling something a “gift,” doesn’t make it a “gift”
When you receive a “true gift,” there is an assumption that the giver doesn’t expect something in return, Acts 2:38

BEWARE OF “GIFTS”

- Beware of “gifting circles,” especially during these uncertain economic times, when looking for financial help
- Gifting pyramids operate by asking you to put money in, with the specific expectation that you will get a large amount of money out of it
- Not only is it illegal, but immoral, because it serves to harm those you care about the most (friends, church members, “those recruited”) *How is it possible for everybody to get the big money?*
- Those on the “bottom of the pyramid,” are hurt the worst and don’t recover their money, and it dissolves; get legal help



OBSERVATIONS

- When the Babylonian representatives come to Judah, King Hezekiah has an opportunity to “put God on display.”
 - That God that massacred the Assyrian army for him
 - That God that healed him of an incurable disease
- If he had given his testimony about his God to the Babylonian representatives, they could have gone home praising His God and possibly could have changed the course of the world

We Have Similar Opportunities

Christ died for His church (and is coming back for it)

Our friends wants to know about this New Testament Church (scripturally sound, no creed but Christ)

We can change the course of their world forever
2 Corinthians 5:17

INSTEAD HEZEKIAH BEGINS TO “SMELL HIMSELF!”

- He takes the representatives from Babylon on a royal tour of his palace; 2 Kings 20:13 describing:
 - His storehouses of silver and gold
 - His precious, rare delicacies, unique spices, and aromatic oils
 - His armory, or stockpile, of weapons

He gave the Babylonian spies a guided tour of all of his prized possessions, bragging on all that he had

- It would be like President Trump showing Russian representatives, all of the United States' prized wealth, army intelligence capabilities, exclusive weapons, and all of our national security defense secrets, for his own “self flagellation”
- There was no mention of “the author and finisher of our faith” on his platform! (His God) Hebrews 12:1-2 ; Luke 12:16-20

THEN GOD SHOWS UP!

- God's timing is amazing: about the time the foreign visitors leave, the prophet Isaiah providentially visits King Hezekiah and notices their departure, verse 14
- He asks, *“What did they tell you, and from where did they come?”* He replied, *“they are from Babylon.”*
- Isaiah then asked, *“What have they seen in your house?”* He replied, *“They have seen all that is in MY house; there is nothing among MY treasures that I have not shown them.”* verse 15
- Hezekiah is “smelling himself,” by exalting himself rather than God (Look at what I have that you don't!, My military stockpile, My jewelry, and My priceless collections)

THE PROBLEM WITH SMELLING YOURSELF: YOU GET ACCLIMATED TO YOUR OWN SMELL!

- Hezekiah didn't recognize that his "prideful odor" was malodorous to God
- Be willing to give God credit for your success
- Hezekiah was in need of a P.E.R.M.

Protective Effective Restraining Mechanism

1) Internal - 2Corinthians 13:5

2) External - Galatians 2:11-13 (spouses, Christian friends, Christian parents or children)

- We all have to be willing to listen and except P.E.R.M.'S

GOD REVEALS HEZEKIAH'S SENTENCE FOR HIS PRIDE! VERSES 16-18

Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, “Hear the word of the Lord: ‘Behold, the days are coming when all that is in your house, and what your fathers have accumulated until this day (all that you inherited) shall be carried to Babylon; nothing shall be left,’ says the Lord. ‘And they shall take away some of your sons who will descend from you, whom you will beget; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.’”

- It is a righteous thing for God to remove from us that which takes HIS place in our lives (job, material gifts, a special relationship with a person)

***If We Don't Give
God His Proper
Credit, We Might
Lose What We Use
(From Him) On
Credit! Psalms 100:3-5***

UNFORTUNATELY, HEZEKIAH'S REACTION TO GOD'S JUDGEMENT WAS SELFISH!

So Hezekiah said to Isaiah, "The word of the Lord which you have spoken is good!" For he said (but he was thinking to himself) "Will there not be peace and truth at least in my days?" (at least, it won't happen during my lifetime, I'll enjoy peace and security as long as I live) verse 19

- Hezekiah, is your (our) lifetime all that matters to you (us)?
- What about your (our) legacy? What pattern or training are you (we) leaving for your (our) generations?
- Hezekiah, aren't you (we) interested in your sons' (our children's, our churches') development?

DEUTERONOMY 6:6-9

“And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you (the time you) lie down, and when you (the time when you) rise up. You shall bind (tie) them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your (forehead) eyes. You shall write them on the doorpost of your house and your gates.”

Bible Bowl Scholars, The Lessons In 2 Kings Were Written For Your (Our) “Learning,” Romans 15:4

PLAN OF SALVATION

Hear the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Believe the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Repent of Sins

Acts 17:30

Confess Christ

Acts 8:37

Be Baptized

Acts 8:38