

GOD HEARS

2 KINGS 19:10-36

(Prepared by Gene Thompson)

1. Who do you call on in a crisis situation? (To a degree it depends on what type of situation. If it is my AC, I call a different person than I would call if it were a plumbing problem. If it is a personal problem dealing with a family member I most likely would turn to God first.)

Sometimes a crisis occurs, and we aren't sure who to call. But in most cases, we know who to call first.

Read the introductory paragraph on page 109 of the PSG.

2. Why might people ignore God even when facing a crisis? (It's too small an issue to bother Him with. I think there is someone else who can help me better.)
3. What words would you use to describe how prayer works? (A conversation with the Creator of the universe, who not only cares about me but desires a relationship with me.)
4. What amazes you most about God's desire to hear our prayers? (When I think about the vastness of the universe, the end of which we have not found, who am I that He cares for me?)

Today we will study King Hezekiah's simple, yet powerful prayer in response to a crisis he faced.

When Hezekiah became king of Judah, he tried to turn the nation back to worshiping only Yahweh and tore down the high places and destroyed all of the idols. Early in Hezekiah's reign, Assyria defeated Israel, and then turned their sights toward Judah.

King Hezekiah of Judah faced a looming crisis. The Assyrians were threatening his people. One commentary says that it had been 150 years since the Assyrian army had been defeated.

THE TAUNT! Read 2 Kings 19:10-13

2 Kings 18 records the first warning King Sennacherib's Chief of Staff gives to King Hezekiah. Now we have a written warning.

1. How would you characterize King Sennacherib's flaws in these verses? (Very arrogant. He decided he did not need to talk with, listen to, or fear Yahweh.)
2. In what ways did Sennacherib attack Hezekiah's faith in God? (He put God in the same category as the false gods of other nations. He didn't recognize Yahweh as the living God.)

Sennacherib's words revealed his pride and his lust for power.

3. How do we find an appropriate balance between arrogance and confidence? (The key is what or whom do you place your confidence in? Arrogance leaves no room for faith in God.)

Once we boast with prideful actions we tend to embark on riskier acts of arrogance. God will put you in your place.

4. How can our past success get in the way of our keeping perspective in life and not thinking too highly of ourselves? (It is important for us to remember any success we have in life comes as a gift from God.)
5. What might a king do upon receiving Sennacherib's threatening message? (Seek help from another country; tremble; turn to the living God for deliverance.)

While strengthening his military posture might seem wise, Hezekiah first turned quickly to God in prayer!

THE PRAYER! Read 2 Kings 19:14-19

King Hezekiah's prayer had three simple sections: Praise; Problem; and Plea.

1. How did Hezekiah begin his prayer? (Praise or worship is the way to get above your problems, to get God's perspective.)
2. How is Yahweh described here?

3. How does envisioning and affirming God's royal power and affirming His work as Creator help us to be able to pray in faith as we present our concerns to Him? (We realize just how small and weak we are and how powerful God is in comparison. Again, it is all about perspective. Mountain illustration.)
 4. Why did he lay out the letter as if showing it to God? (Here is the magnitude of our problem, Lord.) Hezekiah's five pleas are all in verse 16: Listen closely; hear; open Your eyes; see; and hear.
 5. What is Hezekiah's final plea in verse 19 and to whom would the glory go? ("save us from his hand so that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that You are the LORD God—You alone.")
- In the midst of distress, when it seems that Judah is at its weakest, the concern is God's honor throughout the entire world.
6. What priorities did Hezekiah reveal in his prayer? (That God would be recognized as who He is.)
 7. What do a person's prayers reveal about his or her priorities? (Is it for God's glory or their own glory.)
- Hezekiah wanted God to spare Jerusalem and its people. He understood that God's protecting Jerusalem would be a powerful testimony and would demonstrate that the Lord alone is God.

THE ANSWER! Read 2 Kings 19:32-34

1. How do you imagine Hezekiah responded to Isaiah's message from God?
2. What was described in verse 32? (These are all the tactics used by invading armies.)
3. Hezekiah's prayer received an immediate answer. How do we keep honoring God even when our prayers aren't answered as directly as Hezekiah's? (Keep trusting in God's goodness and His plan for my life. See Romans 8:28.)

We may have prayed for an honorable request that wasn't answered as we had hoped. These and other situations of this bent world make God and us sad. We should keep praying because it keeps us in touch with God and His will, not to get a certain answer.

Blasphemy is misrepresenting God. Sennacherib committed blasphemy. It is a serious sin. It slanders, insults, injures the reputation of God, attacks God or says untruths about God.

4. How does God defend His name today? (Changes people's lives through the power of the Holy Spirit. Heals, comforts, and empowers His people to live for Him.)

God proved Himself to be reliable—not a liar. All of Sennacherib's bragging proved to be hollow propaganda. God heard Hezekiah's prayers.

Read 2 Kings 19:35-36

The good news is that He hears ours as well.

SUMMARIZE AND CHALLENGE!

What are three purposes of consistent prayer?

- Praise and worship.
- Petition.
- Partnering with God.
- Communing with our Father.

What can you do this week to strengthen your prayer life this week?

"Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." Hebrews 4:16

"Prayer is the highest use to which speech can be put."

Close in prayer, thanking God for hearing our prayers. Thank Him for being a God who defends His people.