

"Set Your House In Order"

2 KINGS 20:1-6

Background of King Hezekiah

- ▶ One of Judah's best kings. 2 Kings 18:3-7
- ▶ Became King at age 25 and reigned for 29 years from about 727-698 BC instituting many reforms. 2 Chronicles 29:5-11
- ▶ Attacked and threatened by Sennacherib, King of Assyria. 2 Kings 18:13-37
- ▶ Encouraged by Isaiah to trust in God to deliver. 2 Kings 19:6-7
- ▶ King Hezekiah's prayer (2 Kings 19:14-19) and God's response (verses 20-35).

Background of King Hezekiah

- ▶ Afterwards, in 2 Kings 20:1; King Hezekiah became "*mortally ill*" (sick to the point of death) and told by God ...

"Set your house in order, for you shall die and not live."

- ▶ We all must realize we face an uncertain future.
- ▶ How would we react if told you have but just a few days to live?
- ▶ What steps would you take to "**set your house in order**"?

Don't wait to be told ...

- ▶ We don't know what tomorrow holds and we're given no assurances of any type of warning.
- ▶ James 4:14 – "*you are just a vapor ...*"
- ▶ Psalms 39:4-5 – "*... let me know how transient I am ...*"
- ▶ Psalms 90:10-12 – "*... soon it is gone and we fly away ... so teach us to number our days ...*"

Don't wait to be told ...

- ▶ We need to live in a state of preparation.
 - ▶ Luke 12:35 – "*Be dressed in readiness ...*"
 - ▶ Matthew 24:42-44 – what if we knew the day of our departure? Would we then "*be ready*"?
- ▶ Setting our house in order illustrated in Matthew 25:1-13
- ▶ Jesus will come again when no one knows – Matthew 24:26
 - ▶ "What sort of people ought you to be ...?" 2 Peter 3:9-11

Setting our house in order must involve earnest prayer.

- ▶ First thing King Hezekiah did (2 Kings 20:2-3): "*He turned his face to the wall, and prayed to the Lord, saying, 'Remember now, O Lord, I beseech Thee, how I have walked before Thee in truth and with a whole heart, and have done what is good in Thy sight.'*"
- ▶ King Hezekiah didn't pray to a stranger. He prayed "as he had been doing previously" (Daniel 6:10).
- ▶ In such a time, could we ask God to remember how we had served Him faithfully with our whole heart and that we did what He asked of us?

Setting our house in order must involve earnest prayer.

- ▶ The Hebrew writer speaks (Hebrews 4:16) of "**draw(ing) near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need.**" – what if we haven't been serving God with our whole heart?
- ▶ In such dire times, we need to remember to "**cast all your anxiety upon Him, because He cares for you**" (1 Peter 5:7) and that our prayers and petitions are God's "**delight**" (Proverbs 15:8).
- ▶ We have to believe prayer can "**accomplish much**" (James 5:16; cf. 1:6).

Setting our house in order often means a new priority.

- ▶ When faced with news like King Hezekiah, many find that what used to be important no longer is – and what hasn't been a priority to now be one.
- ▶ Many things we put off and procrastinated regarding now find themselves at the top of our "to do" list. Why is that?
- ▶ The command in Matthew 6:33 is not reserved for those on their proverbial "last lap."
- ▶ Examples: Luke 10:40-42; 12:16-21; 14:18ff.

Setting our house in order means doing all to turn others from sin.

- ▶ Would our preparations include wanting to ensure our family and friends were on the right path?
- ▶ The rich man in Luke 16:27-28 wanted to warn his brothers.
- ▶ There is a time to warn the wicked (Ezekiel 3:17-21) and a time to restore the one caught in any trespass (Galatians 6:1).
- ▶ There is always time to "**reprove, rebuke and exhort with great patience and instruction**" (2 Timothy 4:2)

Setting our house in order means resolving conflicts with others.

- ▶ It's common to see people to seek alienated friends and family in situations like King Hezekiah.
- ▶ Don't wait – whether we or the other person are in the wrong. Matthew 5:23-24; Matthew 18:15-17
- ▶ Humility is required – Philippians 2:3-4

Setting our house in order means detaching ourselves from the things of this life.

- ▶ It suddenly hits us that we can't take it with us. What we couldn't bear to part with is suddenly inconsequential.
- ▶ There is no lasting value in the things of this life. 2 Peter 3:10-13; Ecclesiastes 2:18-20
- ▶ Are we laying up treasure in heaven or earth? Matthew 6:19-24

Setting our house in order should mean being "**hard pressed.**"

- ▶ Philippians 1:21-26 – between "**having the desire to depart and be with Christ**" or to "**remain on in the flesh ... for your sake.**"
- ▶ No selfish ambitions for wanting to remain.
- ▶ Having set his house in order, he could confidently say, "**I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness ...**" (2 Timothy 4:6-8)

Setting our house in order must include making things right with God

- ▶ How sad to face such a crisis with sin separating us from God and that it takes news such as King Hezekiah received to realize the need for reconciliation with God.
- ▶ Paul begs us to be "reconciled to God" 2 Corinthians 5:20.
- ▶ Don't put off honest self examination. 2 Corinthians 13:5; 1 Thessalonians 2:3-4

Now is the time to be setting our house in order.

- ▶ Today is the day! Hebrews 3:12-15
- ▶ There is an urgency to getting our house in order. Acts 22:16
- ▶ Acts 16:33; 8:36
- ▶ Setting our house in order is not about wills, insurance, and estates but about being ready to meet our God.