

Isaiah 38,39

2-24-05

“Hezekiah’s Mid-life Crisis!”

1. **Intro:**

- 1.1. **Outline: Mid-life Crisis! & Mid-life Stupidity!**
- 1.2. **We are going to see the power of prayer!**
- 1.3. *Two pastors' wives sat mending their husbands' pants. One of them said to the other, "My poor John, he is so discouraged in his church work. He said just the other day he was considering resigning. It seems nothing goes right for him."
The other replied, "Why, my husband was saying just the opposite. He is so enthused, it seems like the Lord is closer to him than ever before."
A hushed silence fell as they continued to mend the trousers; one patching **the seat** and the other **the knees**.*

2. **MID-LIFE CRISIS! (ch.38)**

- 2.1. **ILLNESS!** (1-8)
- 2.2. **Prophets Prediction!** (1)
 - 2.2.1. In the prime of Hezekiah’s life he contacted a boil(21). It so infected his body that he was told he would die.
 - 2.2.2. **Q: Should you prepare for your death?**
 - 2.2.3. Amos 4:12 **“Prepare to meet your God, O Israel!”**
 - 2.2.4. **“Procrastination is the devil’s toboggan slide to Hell!”**¹
 - 2.2.5. **Our Property** - Prepare physically – A will. Finances in order.
 - 2.2.6. **Our Lives** - But also spiritually – Salvation?
 - 2.2.6.1. Also, plan out your memorial. Don’t have the *“I don’t care I won’t be there mentality.”* That’s selfish thinking!
 - 2.2.6.2. I have had people come in that know they are dying & go over what they would like to have in their service.
 - 2.2.6.3. **Q: What will bring glory to God in your service?**
 - 2.2.6.4. **Q: What’s your favorite worship songs?**
 - 2.2.6.5. **Q: What’s your favorite verse?** (I love knowing this, or using their personal Bible with verses underlined)
 - 2.2.7. They say...*“if you get swept off your feet, it is time to get on your knees!”* And that’s what Hezekiah does.

2.3. **Passionate Prayer!** (2,3)

2.3.1. Spurg - Prayer pulls the rope below and the great bell rings above in the ears of God. Some scarcely stir the bell, for they pray so languidly. Others give but an occasional pluck at the rope. But he who wins with heaven is the man who grasps the rope boldly and pulls continuously, with all his might.

2.3.2. This is a very **normal** prayer to seek to go on living & serving God.

2.3.3. Deut.30:19,20 "I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore **choose life**, that both you and your descendants may live; **that** you may **love** the LORD your God, that you may **obey** His voice, and that you may **cling to Him**, for He is your life and the length of your days;"

2.3.4. (3) **He was loyal!** – 2 Kings 18:1-8(esp.3,4,6). [he rooted out idolatry]

2.3.4.1. He was not claiming favor based on good works, but he has an expectation that God does reward those who serve him.²

2.4. **Radical Recovery!** (4,5)2.5. **Prophetic Pledge!** (6)2.6. **Promised Promise!** (7,8)

2.6.1. Actually Hezekiah got to pick if the shadow went forward or backward (2 Kings 20:9,10).

2.6.2. Like in **Joshua 10:12-14** when the sun stood still for about a whole day!

2.7. **JOURNAL ENTRY!** (9-20)

2.8. (9) This is recorded just after his recovery.

2.9. (10) Death is pictured as passing through a gate.

2.9.1. Hezekiah saw being taken too early as being robbed of earthly blessings.

2.10. (11) No more fellowship on earth w/God & with his fellow man.

2.11. (12-14) **4 similes: "Death is like..."**

2.11.1. (12a) **a Tent** – Life can be swiftly rolled up.

2.11.2. (12b) **a Fabric** – (earthly perspective) Death is so finale (**cut me off**).

2.11.3. (13) **a Lion** – God is like a Lion...crushing pain!

2.11.4. (14) **a Birds** – Hezekiah's crying & moaning.

¹ DeHaan; Bread for Each Day; May 23rd.

² Philip Hacking; Isaiah; pg. 100

- 2.12. (15) **God speaks in pain! & God is the author of this pain!**
- 2.12.1. Our present day example of this is with Kathy Mossa's heart transplant. (she was given an extension of life)
- 2.12.2. **God spoke to them things:** [no, not audibly]
- 2.12.3. **Kathy – Planning Things.**
- 2.12.3.1. "HIS plans are so far better than us trying to plan it out."
- 2.12.3.2. **He showed her how precious life is & how is she now going to glorify God in it?**
- 2.12.4. **Rick – He is trustworthy** (whole driving, "just trust me").
- 2.12.4.1. **That's when everything started rolling.**
- 2.12.4.2. **Went from crying out to Him, to just praising him.** "He loves me & I'll rest in that."
- 2.13. (16) This illness was for my good!
- 2.13.1. **"my spirit finds life in it"**
- 2.13.2. **God's illnesses are always purposeful! – They are apart of the Divine plan.**
- 2.13.3. ***God had one Son on earth without sin, but never one without suffering.*** Saint Augustine of Hippo
- 2.14. (17a) Anguish can bring peace(or **benefit's**, NIV)
- 2.15. (17b) **The completeness** of forgiveness of sin!
- 2.15.1. Always better than **restoring our health, is forgiving our sins!!!**
- 2.16. **So, God puts our sins out of Sight!** (Philip Hacking)
- 2.16.1. **Is.38:17 "For You have cast all my sins behind Your back."**
- 2.17. **God puts our sins out of Reach!**
- 2.17.1. **Psalm 103:12 "As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us."**
- 2.18. **God puts our sins out of Mind!**
- 2.18.1. **Jer 31:34 "For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."**
- 2.19. **God puts our sins out of Existence!**
- 2.19.1. **Micah 7:19 "you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea." (NIV)**
- 2.20. **Oh to know, that our sins are forgiven & forgotten!**
- 2.21. (18) In death you can't praise Him physically.
- 2.21.1. **Ps.30:9 "What profit is there in my blood, When I go down to the pit? Will the dust praise You? Will it declare Your truth?"**
- 2.22. (19,20) Difficult experiences should give us a **new appreciation for life & a new desire to live for the Lord.**
- 2.22.1. A vow to praise Him!(19). Faith Sings!(20)

- 2.23. **RECOVERY!** (21,22)
- 2.24. (21) God + Medicine!
- 2.24.1. Alongside **Divine intervention** there was **human remedy!**
2.24.1.1. **Miracles & medicine** need not contradict each other!
- 2.24.2. A **poultice of figs** was used in medicinal treatment in the ancient Near east.
- 2.24.3. **Poultice**(Encarta): **moist substance applied to injury**: a warm moist preparation placed on an aching or inflamed part of the body to ease pain, improve circulation, or hasten the expression of pus.
- 2.24.4. Poultices may be made from bread, clay, mustard, medicinal herbs, or other materials, but are now considered to **have little medical benefit.**
- 2.25. (22) The sign was verse 8.
- 2.25.1. Interesting the Bible doesn't differentiate between God's **general activity** in **providence** & his **special intervention** in the **miraculous.**

3. **MID-LIFE STUPIDITY!** (ch.39)

- 3.1. **FLATTERY!** (1-8)
- 3.2. **3rd Test** (1-4)
- 3.2.1. **Read** whole chapter!
- 3.2.1.1. **Q: What was Hezekiah's sin here?** (Pride, trusting in his armory?)
- 3.2.2. "What could not be accomplished through an **army** or an **illness** was accomplished through **flattery!**"³
- 3.2.2.1. If Satan cannot succeed as a **lion**, then he comes as a **serpent.**
- 3.2.2.2. Prov.27:6 "Faithful are the wounds of a friend, But the kisses of an enemy are deceitful."
- 3.2.3. (1) The 1st "**Got Well card!**"
- 3.2.4. (2) Grand tour of his royal riches & armory.
- 3.2.4.1. This was foolish, but **pride** took over, & **discernment** flew out the palace window!
- 3.2.5. (3,4) **Get the facts first!**
- 3.2.5.1. Prov 18:13 "He who answers a matter before he hears it, It is folly and shame to him."
- 3.2.5.2. Prov 18:15 "The heart of the prudent **acquires knowledge,** And the ear of the wise seeks knowledge."

³ Warren Wiersbe; pg.475

- 3.2.6. (4) **My** wealth! **My** accomplishments! {most was from Solomon?}
 - 3.2.6.1. His problem wasn't only swelling boils...but swelling Pride!
- 3.2.7. **Hez, how could you?** – I was as dumb! (Los Alamitos story – I invited in the thieves, who returned my Porsche rims, into my apartment...they came back & robbed us!)
- 3.3. **Disastrous Consequences!** (5-8)
 - 3.3.1. (5,6) **Possessions** - Hez don't trust in your wealth!
 - 3.3.2. (7) **People** – not only the treasures, but the people.
 - 3.3.2.1. Even 'your own' royal descendants.
 - 3.3.3. (8) **Unconcerned** that he is storing up disaster for his descendants!
 - 3.3.4. The Babylon invasion was still 100 years off. [fulfilled lit. 586bc]
 - 3.3.5. **Instead of repenting**, he was **relieved** it wasn't going to be in **his** day!
 - 3.3.5.1. How shortsighted can a man of faith become?
 - 3.3.5.2. **He had no concern for the future of his people?** (He sure had a concern for his future a chapter earlier!!!)
- 3.4. This historical interlude makes for the segue into the next Part of Isaiah.
 - 3.4.1. We move from the **Assyrian** against **Israel** to the promised attack from **Babylonian** against **Judah** next.
- 3.5. **Q: When is answered prayer a bad thing?**
 - 3.5.1. During his extra 15 years guess who was born?
 - 3.5.1.1. **Read 2 Chron.32:33-33:1.**
 - 3.5.2. Now God had purposes to do this, & I'm not even saying not to ask for extended life...I'm saying if he doesn't answer understand there's the big picture!
 - 3.5.2.1. Trust him to order your days! - Trust him, your times are in His hands!
 - 3.5.2.2. **He always does what is best for us!** – [Sometimes that is **life**, sometimes that is **death!**]
 - 3.5.2.3. **Even with a child's death** – Sometimes God has compassion on the **parents**(sparing the child) & other times on the child (taking them home!)