

April 30, 2023



FLORENCE BOULEVARD CHURCH OF CHRIST

Bring in the Fig Cake

How do you handle difficult situations? What is your first thought or action when you run into hard times? Admittedly, we don't always act and respond like we should. When these types of situations arise, we have two choices. We can either drive away from God, or be driven to Him. We can look for wisdom and counsel from the world or from the Creator and Sustainer of all. Thankfully for us, we have a book filled with instructions and example after example of how to strive daily to be better at this.

In 2 Kings 18, we read about Hezekiah and the difficulties he faced during his time as king. Hezekiah is described as someone who did what was right in the eyes of the Lord. 2 Kings 18:5-8, further says, "Hezekiah trusted in the Lord, the God of Israel. There was no one like him among all the kings of Judah, either before him or after him. He held fast to the Lord and did not stop following him; he kept the commands the Lord had given Moses. And the Lord was with him; he was successful in whatever he undertook. He rebelled against the king of Assyria and did not serve him."

The Bible says that Hezekiah trusted in God, that there was no one like him among those before and after him, and that he held fast to the Lord. What a powerful and humbling way to be described. Over the next couple of chapters, we see Hezekiah facing two different situations that were less than ideal, and how Hezekiah decided to respond to each.

In 2 Kings 19, we note the action of Sennacherib, king of the Assyrians. Sennacherib threatens an attack and sends Hezekiah a message defying the Lord and expresses that Hezekiah should not be deceived by the trust he is placing in God.

To Hezekiah, this was a sound and dangerous threat from the Assyrian leader. One that brought Hezekiah to a real point of crisis. As we've stated, in difficult situations, we have two choices – we can either drive away from God, or be driven to Him. We can look for wisdom and counsel from the world or the Creator of all.

Hezekiah's immediate reaction was to go up to the house of the Lord and "spread it before the Lord." (2 Kings 19:14) His immediate thought when facing the great threat from Assyria was to immediately seek out God and bring the situation before him. If we're honest with ourselves, do we do that? Is our first thought before anything else, to bring it before our Lord? In chapter 19:15-19, Hezekiah prays saying, "... Lord, the God of Israel, enthroned between the cherubim, you alone are God over all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth. Give ear, Lord, and hear; open your eyes, Lord, and see; listen to the words Sennacherib has sent to ridicule the living God. It is true, Lord, that the Assyrian kings have laid waste these nations and their lands. They have thrown their gods into the fire and destroyed them, for they were not gods but only wood and stone, fashioned by human hands. Now, Lord our God, deliver us from his hand, so that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that you alone, Lord, are God."

(continued on back page)

Elders
Steve Clark
Jake VanDyke
Ken Vanhorn
Mark Willingham

Deacons
Greg Allen
Justin Beckman
Kevin Clemons
Jeffrey Cox
Mike Davidson
Kyle Dickson
Gregg Elrod
Nate Fulmer
AJ Gooch
David Gooch
Lee Handley
Will Hodge
Brian McManus
Jamey Medley
Ronnie Putnam
Dave Schmidt
Mark Vanhorn
Don Williams

Minister
Austin Johnson

Youth Minister
John Birdwell

Secretary
Sonya Cox

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Worship: Sunday 9:00 am & 5:00 pm; Bible Class 10:15 am; Wednesday: 6:30 pm

FOR THE RECORD

Sunday AM: 283 / On Line Views: 153
Sunday School: 231 / On Line Views: 59
Sunday PM: 187/ On Line Views: 414
Wednesday: 202 / On Line Views: 76
Budget: \$14,620
Contribution: \$ 14,269

APRIL MISSIONARY OF THE MONTH

**K.B.B Chandrapaul
Jack Nelle Institute
Nidamanuru-521104
Vijayawada, A.P.
India**

lovefaithhope@yahoo.com

MEETINGS

There will be an Elders & Deacons meeting **TODAY** at 3 pm in the Family Room, followed by a Men’s Meeting at 4 pm, in the Fellowship Hall.

SENIOR NIGHT

Senior Night will be on Sunday, May 7th, following evening services, in the Fellowship Hall. There will be tables set up to leave gifts for our seniors.

Our graduating seniors include: Kaden Agee, Ella Embry, Garret Gean, Remington Medley, Katelin Risner, Elijah Sampson, and Ellie South.

(continuation)

Hezekiah humbly comes before God, knowing his place as a king, yet still acknowledging that God is the King of Kings. Hezekiah comes before God with boldness and confidence by asking the Lord to hear his words. 1 John 5:14-15 says “And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.” We know following his prayer, Isaiah tell Hezekiah the Lord heard his prayer and would later destroy 185,000 within the Assyrian camp.

In chapter 20, we read of a second prayer by Hezekiah, as he is informed he will die and not recover from his illness. Faced with another difficult and bleak outcome, Hezekiah again is driven to God in prayer (albeit a different type of prayer than the first). In 2 Kings 20:2, we read that “Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed to the Lord, remember, Lord, how I have walked before you faithfully and with wholehearted devotion and have done what is good in you eyes.” Hezekiah pleads with the Lord and the following verses (5-6) states “This is what the Lord, the God of your father David, says: I have heard your prayer and seen your tears; I will heal you. On the third day from now you will go up to the temple of the Lord. I will add fifteen years to your life. And I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria. I will defend this city for my sake and for the sake of my servant David.” A cake of figs is then brought in to help Hezekiah recover.

There’re several lessons that can be taken from Hezekiah’s story and even actions to follow. The challenge for us this week, however elementary it may sound, is for us to be mindful and purposeful about how we respond and who we turn to in difficult situations. Our responses can either drive away from God, or be driven to Him. I challenge us all to be driven closer to Him.

Will Hodge

NORTH ALABAMA CHRISTIAN CHILDREN’S HOME

Everyone is invited to help North Alabama Christian Children’s Home celebrate their 50th Anniversary on Saturday, May 6th at 1:00 pm, on campus at the Children’s Home, 6350 County Road 63, Killen, AL. Come out to tour the homes, enjoy the catered appetizers, and the fellowship with all the brethren with the various congregations. This is not a fund raiser.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Our Vacation Bible School will be June 11th-14th, from 6pm-8pm. We are in need of volunteers for guides, teachers, games, puppets, etc. There will be tables set up next week, with sheets of listed jobs needed. If you can help with anything, please sign-up.