

Real Trust – Part 2

Isaiah 36 & 37

Pastor Guy Gray

When Crisis Comes Knocking at Your Door

Real trust will always be refined in the fires of crisis. When the crisis of life comes knocking at your door, as it always does—it's a divine moment of opportunity. It's in those moments that you can bring your whole heart and life to God in faith and find a depth in your relationship with God like never before—but this is a spiritual battle. It is real and the stakes are high!

This is exactly what happened in 701 BC to a king in Jerusalem named Hezekiah. The armies of Assyria had marched to his “front door”, the gates of Jerusalem. It was the greatest crisis he ever faced in his life. It was a terrifying moment when he stood to lose everything. The lives of every man, woman and child in Jerusalem were at stake. The story of what happened unfolds in Isaiah chapters 36-37.

What the Enemy Really Wants

Sennacherib, the king of Assyria was attacking Jerusalem because Hezekiah dared to defy him. Sennacherib called himself “the great king” (Isaiah 36:4&13). He took this arrogant title for himself, but Hezekiah knew that only God Almighty is the true “great king” of all the earth. Hezekiah knew that God Almighty had a plan and a purpose for his life and for His people. Hezekiah knew that he had a destiny and a calling from God to make a difference in this world. But Sennacherib wanted to dominate Hezekiah and keep him from living out the calling of God in his life. Sennacherib believed that Hezekiah belonged to him. Sennacherib was enraged because Hezekiah dared to “rebel” against his authority and power (Isaiah 36:5).

This is a tremendous example of the spiritual battle that each of us faces in our lives. There is indeed an enemy of our souls. This enemy thinks that he is the Lord of our lives. He wants to keep us from living in the calling and purpose of God for our lives. He will do anything to keep us under his control. Lies, half truths, distortions, threats, false promises, fear, humiliation, intimidation—he is not going to let us go without a fight.

“On Whom are You Depending?”—The One Question That Truly Matters

In the midst of all this, one key question becomes the central focus in the battle. “On whom are you depending that you rebel against me,” says the commander of the Assyrian army. This is the one question that truly matters in the whole conflict. “On whom are you depending?” This reveals that faith—real trust—is the key to winning this battle. The enemy at the gates of Jerusalem does everything he can to destroy their trust in God. This is the heart of the battle. He lies, he distorts, he uses half truths, he offers false promises of peace and prosperity through compromise and ultimately he just attacks the reality, honor and power of Almighty God.

Hezekiah will not back down. In this moment of crisis, he grabs hold of the reality of God by faith. He humbles himself. He prays. He seeks out the Word of God through Isaiah. He defies the enemy. He submits to God. He throws his whole life and destiny on God by faith. This is his greatest moment—but only because in this moment he truly finds the greatness of God on his behalf.

Hezekiah knew the right answer to the question. He was depending on the God who sits upon the throne in Isaiah 6. He was depending on the God who is King of the whole universe. He was depending on the One who is not only infinitely powerful but also intimately close to save those who call upon Him. Hezekiah believed. He believed the word of Isaiah. He believed that God would personally intervene in this messed up world and break the grip of evil. The victory he experienced was a victory of faith and only faith. At the end of his own strength, wisdom and resources, he simply trusted. This is the way of God in our lives. This is the gospel of Jesus Christ. The victory of God in this story unfolds at the end of Isaiah 37. The Assyrian army was struck down

by the power of God. This only points forward to a greater victory won by God. The power of Satan and death itself was broken by the victory of Christ on the Cross and in His Resurrection life. Ultimately this will manifest in His triumph over all evil as shown in the Book of Revelation. However, the immediate question for each of us today is the same as it was for Hezekiah so long ago. "On whom are you depending?" Where is your trust? Will you defy the enemy of your soul and submit your life to Christ in faith? Will you trust Jesus? Will you step into God's calling and purpose for your life in this broken world? The stakes are higher than we can imagine! Now is the right time to truly put our trust in the Lord

River West Happenings...

Sunday, June 15th •

Grade Move-up Day for all Kids at River West!

If you have questions contact Lindsay Bailey or Pastor Josh at 699.2226 or lindsay@riverwest.org or josh@riverwest.org

Saturday, June 21st • Saturday Morning Prayer at River West @ 8-9am

If you would like to take a more active role in the heart of our church through prayer, come join us during this amazing time of seeking and rejoicing in God's plans for us as a church and community of believers. This group meets on the 3rd Saturday of each month. For more information contact Jeff Nopper @ 245.1841 or Ryan Lee @ 235.9388

July 14th-18th •

Vacation Bible School K-5th

Register now...forms are in the lobby & at the church office. Contact Lindsay at 699.2226 or lindsay@riverwest.org

Sunday • June 22nd El Salvador Mission Trip Information @ 7pm at the Community Center

We have a team traveling to El Salvador this fall-November 1-7. If you are interested in going, come to this meeting to get informed! . Applications are due by June 30th. For more information contact Chris Coffman at 699.2226 or chris@riverwest.org

Thursdays • Starting June 26th • Summer Marriage Study at River West Church, 6:30-8:30pm

This 5 week study is all about "Love & Respect" in your marriage relationship. Whether you've been married for one day or one million days, you and your marriage will definitely benefit from this great study! For more information contact Pastor Josh at 699.2226 or josh@riverwest.org

Don't Forget your BOX FAN!