

Hezekiah Syndrome
2 Kings 20-23
1-8-23

I. We Desire To Be An INTER -Generational Church.

2 Timothy 2:2 – *"...and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also."*

Psalms 145:4 – *"One generation shall commend your works to another and shall declare your mighty acts."*

Joshua 4:6-7 – *"...that this may be a sign among you. When your children ask in time to come, 'What do those stones mean to you?' Then you shall tell them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord. When it passed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. So these stones shall be to the people of Israel a memorial forever."*

II. Two Kings.

1. Hezekiah

2 Kings 20:12-13 – *"At that time Merodach-baladan the son of Baladan, king of Babylon, sent envoys with letters and a present to Hezekiah, for he heard that Hezekiah had been sick. And Hezekiah welcomed them, and he showed them all his treasure house, the silver, the gold, the spices, the precious oil, his armory, all that was found in his storehouses. There was nothing in his house or in all his realm that Hezekiah did not show them."*

2 Chronicles 32:27,29 – *"And Hezekiah had very great riches and honor, and he made for himself treasuries for silver, for gold, for precious stones, for spices, for shields, and for all kinds of costly vessels; He likewise provided cities for himself, and flocks and herds in abundance, for God had given him very great possessions."*

A. Hezekiah was comfortable.

2 Kings 20:14-18 – *"Then Isaiah the prophet came to King Hezekiah, and said to him, 'What did these men say? And from where did they come to you?' And Hezekiah said, 'They have come from a far country, from Babylon.' He said, 'What have they seen in your house?' And Hezekiah answered, 'They have seen all that is in my house; there is nothing in my storehouses that I did not show them.' Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, 'Hear the word of the Lord: Behold, the days are coming, when all that is in your house, and that which your fathers have stored up till this day, shall be carried to Babylon. Nothing shall be left, says the Lord. And some of your own sons, who will come from you, whom you will father, shall be taken away, and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.'"*

2 Kings 20:19 – *"Then Hezekiah said to Isaiah, 'The word of the Lord that you have spoken is good.' For he thought, 'Why not, if there will be peace and security in my days?'"*

- B. Hezekiah was unconcerned.
- C. We cannot let our comfort or lack of concern lure us from our task to reach the next generation.

2. Josiah

2 Kings 22:1 – *"Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Jedidah the daughter of Adaiah of Bozkath."*

2 Kings 22:13 – *"Go, inquire of the Lord for me, and for the people, and for all Judah, concerning the words of this book that has been found. For great is the wrath of the Lord that is kindled against us, because our fathers have not obeyed the words of this book, to do according to all that is written concerning us."*

2 Kings 22:15-20 – *"And she said to them, Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: 'Tell the man who sent you to me, Thus says the Lord, Behold, I will bring disaster upon this place and upon its inhabitants, all the words of the book that the king of Judah has read. Because they have forsaken me and have made offerings to other gods, that they might provoke me to anger with all the work of their hands, therefore my wrath will be kindled against this place, and it will not be quenched. But to the king of Judah, who sent you to inquire of the Lord, thus shall you say to him, Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Regarding the words that you have heard, because your heart was penitent, and you humbled yourself before the Lord, when you heard how I spoke against this place and against its inhabitants, that they should become a desolation and a curse, and you have torn your clothes and wept before me, I also have heard you, declares the Lord. Therefore, behold, I will gather you to your fathers, and you shall be gathered to your grave in peace, and your eyes shall not see all the disaster that I will bring upon this place.' And they brought back word to the king."*

2 Kings 23:1-3 – *"Then the king sent, and all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem were gathered to him. And the king went up to the house of the Lord, and with him all the men of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem and the priests and the prophets, all the people, both small and great. And he read in their hearing all the words of the Book of the Covenant that had been found in the house of the Lord. And the king stood by the pillar and made a covenant before the Lord, to walk after the Lord and to keep his commandments and his testimonies and his statutes with all his heart and all his soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people joined in the covenant."*

- A. Josiah impacted "small" people who would go on to become "great" people.
- B. Josiah impacted the next generation with the Word of God.

III. 2023 THEME - "...To the Next Generation"

GROWING DEEPER THIS WEEK

1. What did you think about the message this week? What stood out to you or challenged your thinking?
2. What are some spiritual goals that you hope to achieve this year? Share them with your group and keep each other accountable.
3. What are some reasons that hold people back from reaching into the next generation?
4. Why is it important for the church to be discipling and reaching the next generation?
5. What are some spiritual things we can do to prepare the next generation for the difficult days ahead?
6. King Josiah made it a point to re-instate the teaching of God's word to the next generation. What are some ways we can prioritize God's word with the next generation at MCC?
7. How can we make God's Word a priority with the generations represented in our families?
8. One of the things we want to encourage our C-Groups to do this year is to serve together as a group at MCC...So, discuss and strategize as a group how you can be involved in reaching the next generation here at MCC. Where are places you can serve the next generation together as a group? What are some ideas you might have about how we can reach the next generation?