

Day 77 – May 16

The blessing of Hezekiah is one of the most amazing passages we've read in a while. While it remarkably reveals that God truly listens to our prayers, it also avoids the idea that God is "bound" to listen to our prayers, that we control God or that He is not free to not answer them. Let's take a look.

Hezekiah, after standing up to the Assyrian army and watching God defeat them on his doorstep, goes on to do God's will throughout his reign. Yet he becomes ill and is near to death.

Lesson #1: Obedience and faith do not mean we will avoid death, suffering, or illness.

He cries out to God, who informs him through Isaiah that he will surely die.

Lesson #2: God's messages are not always to our liking. Sometimes, God has bad news.

He prays once again and weeps in lament, and God changes His mind.

Lesson #3: God hears our prayers, and when He chooses to, may change even promised outcomes.

God sends Isaiah back to Hezekiah and tells him of the blessings He will bestow. He tells Hezekiah...

- A. He will heal him.
- B. 3 days from now you will walk and worship.
- C. You will get 15 more years.
- D. You will be rescued from Assyria, your enemy.
- E. I will continue to protect your city.

Wow! Ask for healing and get all of this!?! Amazing Grace indeed.

Lesson #4: One of God's answers to our prayers is, "Yes, and here's more!" He loves that one.

But then comes the interesting part. God could just heal him, but doesn't. As is often the case, God asks Hezekiah to take part in his own healing. An ointment from figs upon the sores and he's healed. Like with Naaman the leper ("Go wash in the Jordan 7 times") or Moses again and again ("Raise your staff...")

Lesson #5: God expects and even demands that we take part in His answer to our own prayers.

What are you praying for right now? Are you ready for any answer God might give, even if it's bad news? Are you ready for Him to give you what you ask and so much more? Are you ready to take part in your own answer?