

Hezekiah: Healed, but Boastful Isaiah 38-39

What is the point of chapter 38?

Isaiah wants us to feel what Hezekiah experienced of God: that

- God casts all his sins behind his back (v.17)
- God loves him (v.17)
- God hears his prayers (v.5)
- God saw his tears (v.5)
- God has power to heal sickness (v.5)
- God helped him when he was weak in faith (vv.8,22)
- God controls the solar system (v.8)

What is the point of chapter 39?

Isaiah wants us to understand that just like Hezekiah, we all easily and quickly succumb to pride.

How can we tell if we are succumbing to pride?

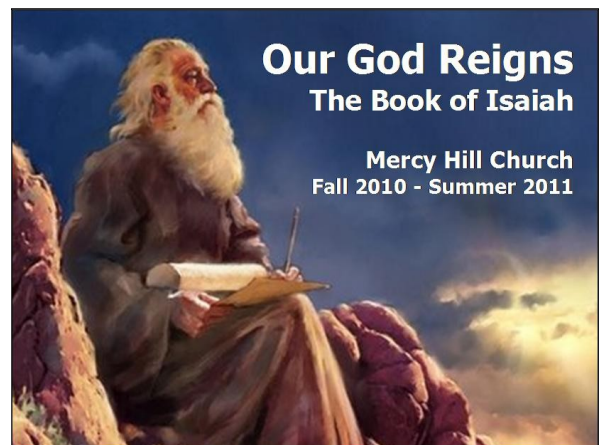
- I feel superior to others instead of feeling humbled before God.
- I find pleasure in people noticing me instead of in people exalting Christ.
- I am more aware of someone else's sinfulness than my own.
- I talk about what exalts me instead of talking about what helps others.
- I am angry about my rights and what I think I deserve.
- I hate sin because it makes me look bad, not because it dishonors Christ.
- I feel bad when others are noticed more than me.

What can we do?

Confess the sin of pride, trusting Christ to forgive and cleanse you.

Pray for the power of the Spirit to conquer pride and strengthen humility.

Nurture awe at God's glory, brokenness for sin, and love for the Cross — by meditating on God's Word.



HOME GROUP DISCUSSION OF SUNDAY'S TEACHING

(Sometimes in our home groups we talk about Sunday's teaching, so we can work together on responding to God's Word — asking questions, sharing insights, talking together.)

What was the Holy Spirit saying to you Sunday through this passage?

What questions, ideas, objections, encouragements did you come away with?

Did any of the questions under "How can we tell if we are succumbing to pride" hit home with you? Which ones? What did this show you?

Why would C. J. Mahaney say that pride is the worst viper in the heart? Do you agree or disagree? Why?

In the past, how seriously have you taken pride? How did Sunday's teaching affect this seriousness? What steps will you be taking to scan for and destroy the virus of pride?

What's your take-away from this message? What are you going to do differently? When? How?

Share prayer requests that come up in the discussion, jot them down below, and pray for each other.

