

Apply The Word

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Message Info

Title:

Learn Now, Trust
Always

Speaker:

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Date:

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Scriptures:

Isaiah 36-37

Theme: Learn to trust the Lord now so that you are always able to trust him.

Introduction: Learning life's lessons isn't always something that we welcome. There can be lots of reasons that we resist engaging and learning in the ways that we should. Similarly, in Isaiah, we have seen how Israel often refused to respond to the Lord even as he was patiently and repeatedly calling them to trust him. He was at work to cause them to look to him, to rely on him, to live for him.

God brings two kinds of lessons to his people to help them to grow in faith:

1. Providential Lessons (36:1-37:8)

Chapter 36 relays the dramatic story of Jerusalem's standoff with the forces of Sennacherib, and his spokesman, the Rabshakeh.

Though Assyria had been a threat for decades, the time for their showdown had arrived. The rest of Judah had fallen. Only Jerusalem still stood.

The Rabshakeh tells the people not to trust in anyone or anything for deliverance. He will crush them, and no one will be able to deliver them. Even YHWH will not be able to deliver them out of his hand.

Hezekiah responds humbly and cries out to the Lord for deliverance. His response demonstrates his great trust in God, and the Lord delivers him and his people.

We also see that the place where Hezekiah is called to trust the Lord (36:2) is the same place where his father, Ahaz, was also called (7:3). But Hezekiah responds rightly and experiences the Lord's deliverance.

2. Ongoing Lessons (37:9-38)

Hezekiah's lessons in trust are not over. The Rabshakeh returns and reiterates his threats. YHWH will not be able to deliver them from his hand.

The Christian life is like this: our calls to trust in the Lord are not a one-time event. We face challenges and suffering repeatedly, and we are called again and again to look to and to trust in God.

Yet again Hezekiah trusts the Lord, and yet again he is delivered.

The Lord also pronounces judgment on Assyria. Though they had seemed strong, yet he would punish them. And he does: 185,000 soldiers are killed in one night. And Sennacherib is killed in his temple by his own sons.

Questions:

1. Where are you finding it hard to trust the Lord right now?
2. Is there any pride that is keeping you from owning your sins and turning to the Lord in faith and repentance?
3. Is there anything in your life that the Lord is calling you to turn *from* so that you can trust in him alone?