

Apply The Word

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Message Info

Title:

Practice

Wholeheartedness

Speaker:

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Date:

March 7, 2021

Scriptures:

Isaiah 38-39

Theme: Practice wholeheartedness so that you work with the will of God.

Introduction: Our attitudes profoundly affect how we engage life, including our responsibilities, trials, and conflicts. One of the primary ways our attitudes are revealed is in relation to the will of God. God's people should delight to do God's will. It should be the desire of our whole hearts.

In Hezekiah's life we see this theme revealed through a trial in his life, and his heart is revealed to us in two steps:

1. Mostly Wholehearted (38)

When Hezekiah is 39 years old he is suffering from a serious, extended illness. His life is threatened, and with it, the continuation of the Davidic dynasty.

In his sorrow, he pleads to the Lord for help. The Lord hears his prayers and grants him an additional 15 years of life.

Hezekiah linked his request to his wholeheartedness toward the Lord (38:2-3). He seems like an ideal king.

But when his request is granted, instead of rejoicing at God's kindness, Hezekiah turns to lament. He mourns the reality of death.

His response can mirror our own. We can be less than wholehearted in our devotion to the Lord, and other interests can rise in our hearts above him.

2. Halfhearted (39)

As news of Hezekiah's recovery spread, the Chaldeans came to offer him a present and to celebrate his healing.

Hezekiah took the officials throughout his storehouses and showed them the full extent of his wealth and power. He did not glorify the Lord for his healing.

Instead, he gloried in his own power and glory.

The Lord used Isaiah to rebuke Hezekiah for his pride. The Lord pronounced an impending judgment for Judah, though not during the lifetime of Hezekiah.

Hezekiah declared the Lord's word to be good, as there will be "peace and security" in his days.

Questions:

1. How aware are you of the blessing and kindness of God in your life?
2. How does your life present a picture of compromise before God?
3. How does it present the priority of and love for the Lord?