

Sermon: There's Nothing God Can't Do

Text: 2 Chronicles 32

Introduction:

The Bible is FULL of stories and situations when the Lord allows His people to find themselves in difficult and overwhelming situations. It happens over and over again. Now...I can't speak for God on the question of why this happens—but I have a good hunch. I think God is often testing us to see if we're going to trust in ourselves (or others)—or if we're going to look up and trust in Him. God always wants to know the condition of our heart—and crisis reveals this faster than anything else.

Take a minute even right now and think about the times in Scripture when people or groups of people were in an overwhelming situation that felt life-threatening or beyond their ability to handle things (much less understand why they are happening).

- Think about Job who suffered devastating loss.
- Think about the Israelites who were delivered from bondage in Egypt—only to find themselves backed up against the Red Sea with no obvious way out.
- Think about the 40 days that Goliath taunted the Israelite army before David walked out with only a sling in his hand.
- Think about the disciples in the boat in the middle of the night when a fierce storm whips up—and Jesus is sleeping in the back of the boat.
- Think about King Jehoshaphat in 2 Chronicles 20 when a coalition of three armies were bearing down on Jerusalem.
- Think about the Apostle Paul sitting in a tiny prison cell in Rome awaiting martyrdom—and yet telling us to “Rejoice in the Lord always!”

The list goes on and on in terms of those we read about in the Bible.

But what about you? Is this true in your own life?

Take a minute right now to think about the times in your life when you found yourself in an overwhelming situation that felt life-threatening or beyond your ability to handle (much less understand why these things were happening).

- Make a list—or discuss them with those in your group.

What happened? Did God make a way out of whatever situation that you were in? Did these situations create an opportunity for you to place your trust in the Lord? Did you find yourself trusting in yourself for answers—or turning to God for help?

These questions help us tune our hearts to the chapter that we are studying today.

King Hezekiah and the nation of Judah are in a desperate situation. The Assyrian army has already laid waste to the northern kingdom of Israel several years earlier. Now they are back and surrounding Jerusalem with a seemingly insurmountable force. Hezekiah has done his best to prepare for this situation, but the fact is that without God's help—there is no escape.

Examination:

- **Read 2 Chronicles 32**

- Who came and encamped against the cities of Judah?
- What country was he from?
- What had he purposed to do?
- What did Hezekiah counsel his men to do?
- Why had they decided to come against Judah?
- What did Hezekiah do to fortify Jerusalem? Do you think this was a good thing—or did it show a lack of faith in God?
- The prophet Isaiah actually describes the things that Hezekiah does to prepare Jerusalem for battle in Isaiah 22:1-11 (the “Valley of Vision” is Jerusalem). What do you make of what Isaiah says? Does he view the measures that Hezekiah takes as a good thing?
- How did Hezekiah prepare the people for war?
- In verse 7, what did Hezekiah do?
- What did Hezekiah tell them Sennacherib trusted in?
- Who was on the side of Hezekiah?
- Who did Sennacherib send to Jerusalem? What was their intent or purpose?
- What did the servants of Sennacherib try to convince the people that Hezekiah had done to them?
- What had Hezekiah done that had been common knowledge in the lands around Judah? (v. 12)
- Why were the false gods of the heathen nations unable to help them?
- What did he write in the letters he sent to Judah?
- Who killed Sennacherib?
- How many of his men did the angel of the LORD kill? What do you make of this? What goes through your mind as you read this?
- What effect did this have on the nations around Hezekiah?
- Read 2 Kings 20:1-11...and discuss what else we learn about Hezekiah’s illness.
- How long did God extend Hezekiah's life, when he was sick?
- What sign did He give Hezekiah?
- Who had Hezekiah shown his riches to, that displeased God? Why was this such a tragic mistake? Why do you think Hezekiah did this?
- Who reigned in Hezekiah's stead at his death?

Application:

What does this chapter teach you in terms of how to respond when you feel overwhelmed by life and circumstances? What are you willing to do right now in terms of putting your faith in God’s sovereign power and love into practice?