

SPREAD IT BEFORE THE LORD

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A Sermon Outline

Presented to

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By

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## **SPREAD IT BEFORE THE LORD**

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**TEXT: 2 KING 19:1-37**

**THESIS:** To encourage brethren to go before the throne of grace and pour their burdens before the Lord in prayer.

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. When people are faced with life threatening challenges, various kinds of reactions emerge.
2. Some lock up themselves and cry all day and all night, some call families and or friends, others resort to fasting whereas some turn to overeating.
3. However, as people of God and members of the household of God, what should be the best things to do?
4. From the account of 2 Kings 19, Hezekiah, King of Judah teaches us what we need to do when our troubles are unbearable.
5. Let us take a quick look at the background of King Hezekiah.
  - a. This Hezekiah had become king at age 25, after his father Ahaz. Ahaz was one of the worst kings of Judah, the Southern Kingdom.
  - b. Ahaz had shut the doors of the house of the Lord and had made idol altars for the people in every corner of the city of Jerusalem (2 Chron. 28:21-25).
  - c. In the first month of the first year, Hezekiah started cleaning up and soon restored the worship of the Lord (2 Chron. 29:3-36).
6. After the restoration, the Assyrians invaded Judah and their King Sennacherib sent messengers and a letter to ask the people to surrender (2 King 18:28-32).
7. Again, Sennacherib revile the Living God of Israel warning Hezekiah not to trust in God.
8. The Assyrians message was simply, Israel is not better than all the nations we have consumed and their gods we have cast into fire.
9. I will share with you 4 main points on how Hezekiah led the people to God and won without casting a stone.
  - I. Ascending to spread before the Lord**
  - II. Adoration to magnify the Living God**
  - III. Assurance of God to redeem His people**
  - IV. Answer from God to the king's prayer**

### **DISCUSSION:**

#### **I. ASCENDING TO SPREAD BEFORE THE LORD**

##### **A. Things can get worse in life, prepare your mind for that.**

1. Troubles will sometimes come our ways irrespective of our good works in the Lord.

2. The nation Israel had returned and restored the service of God but ironically that was the time that a pagan nation (Assyria) invaded their land.
3. Worse things can happen, but such do not mean God has forsaken you.
4. Sometimes they are for God's glory to be revealed (John 9:3, John 11:4).

**B. Answer not your enemy without consulting the Lord your God first.**

1. When Sennacherib sent Rabshakeh to warn Hezekiah and the people, they answered him not a word (2 King 18:33-36).
2. Consult the Lord on how to respond to challenges that come your ways (2 King 19:1-6).
3. Hezekiah was afraid but that brought him closer to God (2 King 19:1).
  - a. He didn't hide his weaknesses as compared to the Assyrians.
  - b. He saw the trouble as the end their lives and run unto God (2 King 19:3-4).

**C. Carry it to the Lord in prayer when things get tougher.**

1. Carry not your problem anywhere but spread it before the Lord and pray (2 King 19:14-15).
2. Hezekiah after receiving the message of war, read it and redirected the letter to God.
  - a. Hezekiah saw the attack on him and his people as an attack on God (2 King 19:16).
  - b. He identified God as the real owner of the nation and hence the letter from Sennacherib.
  - c. The battle belongs to God, and He will fight (2 Chron. 20:15).
3. We sometimes bear needless pains and worry unnecessarily (Matt. 6:27-32).
  - a. We need to be anxious for nothing but to spread it all before the Lord (Phil. 4:6-7).
  - b. We sing a hymn by Joseph Medlicott Scriven (1855) "What a friend we have in Jesus". The first stanza reads ...

*What a friend we have in Jesus,  
all our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry  
everything to God in prayer!  
O what peace we often forfeit,  
O what needless pain we bear,  
all because we do not carry  
everything to God in prayer!*

4. Jesus wants us to carry all to God and spread them before the throne of grace (Heb. 4:14-16).

**II. ADORATION TO MAGNIFY THE LIVING GOD.**

**A. Adore God amid your problems.**

1. Hezekiah knew the potentials of the Neo-Assyrian Empire, and how they had devoured all the nations roundabout them including Israel, the Northern kingdom (2 Kings 18:9-12).
2. Yet Hezekiah exalted God, acknowledging the sovereignty of God (2 King 19:15).
3. He belittled the pride of Sennacherib and despised the gods of all the nations Assyria had conquered (2 King 19:18).
4. Tell your problems how Awesome our God is but do not tell God how great your troubles are.

**B. Magnify God while waiting on Him.**

1. Hezekiah turned his fears into praises of the God of heaven (2 King 19:15, 18-19).
2. Like David did, Hezekiah magnified the Lord (Psalm 34:1-8).
3. They that wait on the Lord shall renew their strength (Isa. 40:28-31).
4. Seek to glorify God when you wait for His answers.
5. Minimize your fears and maximize your praises in times of troubles.

**III. ASSURANCE OF GOD TO REDEEM HIS PEOPLE.**

**A. Rely on the assurance of God and do not be afraid (2 King 19:6).**

1. For it is impossible for God to lie (Num 23:19; Titus 1:2; Heb. 6:18).
2. It is impossible for God to fail (Josh. 21:45).
3. It is impossible for God to be unfaithful (2 Tim. 2:13; Heb 10:23).
4. He called Moses and Israel and gave them assurance to be calm (Exo 14:13-16).
5. God's word provides us with much evidence of His ability and capabilities of redeeming His children.

**B. All the promises of God are assured.**

1. Isaiah proclaimed the assured promises of God to Hezekiah (2 King 19:21-34)
2. God will always come true with His promises.
3. When the time He has set forth is due, nothing can stop Him from accomplishing His promises (Jer. 32:27).
4. He can do exceedingly abundantly above our request (Eph. 3:20).
5. All the promises of God in Christ are Yes and Amen (2 Cor. 1:18-22).

**IV. ANSWER FROM GOD TO THE KING'S PRAYER**

**A. God heard the prayers of Hezekiah and defeated the Assyrians with Israel casting a stone.**

1. God dictated a reply to the letter to Sennacherib (2 King 19:6-8)
2. Hezekiah trusted in God and the Lord saved him and the people.
3. That night the angel of the Lord smote the camp of the Assyrians killing 185,000 soldiers (2 King 19:35).
4. Sennacherib fled and departed with shame to Nineveh his city just as God assured Hezekiah (2 King 19:36; 2 Chron. 32:21-23).
5. Sennacherib was killed by his two sons Adrammelech and Sharezer fulfilling the words of Isaiah the prophet (2 King 19:37 cf. 19:7).

**B. God is a prayer answering God and a deliverer.**

1. We have abundance of records of evidence to trust in God.
  - a. He answered and delivered Jacob in all his ways (Gen. 32:9-12; Gen 33:17-20).
  - b. He answered Hannah (1 Sam.1:10-11; 1:20).
  - c. On multiple times He delivered David (Psa. 18:1-19).
  - d. He heard and delivered Paul and Silas (Acts 16:25-33).
2. God wants us to come before Him as His children.
  - a. He wants us to come boldly to His throne (Heb. 4:16).
  - b. He wants us to pray without ceasing (2 Thess. 5:17, Eph 6:18, 1 John 5:14).
  - c. He wants us to pray without doubting He will answer and deliver us (Jas. 1:6-8).
  - d. Like Hezekiah, God wants us to come and spread it before Him.

**CONCLUSION**

1. The Assyrians were wiped out and their king Sennacherib was forced to retreat.
  - a. What an ironic ending.
  - b. For days and days Sennacherib had confidently told Hezekiah, not to trust in the LORD, for God did not have the power to protect him.
  - c. How ironic that Sennacherib would die in the house of a god who could not protect him.
  - d. “What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us?” (Rom. 8:31).
2. God is more than able to do for us if we will be obedient to Him and spread all before Him.
3. However, God answers the prayers of those who are in His house (Isa 59:1-2).
4. You can also become a member of His household by;
  - a. Believing the Gospel (John 8:24).
  - b. Repenting from your sins (Acts 2:38).
  - c. Confessing Jesus as the Son of God (Acts 8:37).
  - d. Baptizing for your salvation (1Pet. 3:21, Act 2:38-41, 47).