Hezekiah: Underrated Dude in the Bible

Reminder of the storyline of the Bible.

Genesis 22:18 (a couple of different places you could look). When I was a kid I thought Oh, that’s cool. God’s going to give him lots of ancestors! But that’s not really the cool part. God says “…and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”

Why is that a cool thing? Matthew 1:1-2. Where does Jesus’ ancestry begin? Abraham!

Fast forward the clock. God’s gotta make good on his promise. But Abraham’s ancestors are slaves in Egypt. God delivers them. Leads them through the wilderness. Finally, the entered the Promised Land. Eventually the children of Israel become a kingdom of Israel. King Saul. King David. King Solomon.

Solomon’s heart is turned away from God and He says, “Alright, since you were not faithful to me I am going to tear the kingdom away from you. Israel and Judah become two separate kingdoms.

And if you’ve been reading your Bible this year that’s where we are right now in the story. 1-2 Kings. Story after story after story about a whole bunch of wicked, wicked kings, and a small handful of stories about some good ones.

God’s people sinned. Israel is captured first. The Assyrians take them captive. Judah continues to be free for a few more years (had a little bit better leadership, not much!).

And one of the reasons it was not overtaken so quickly is because of a king named Hezekiah.

Hezekiah. Anybody?

Father was King Ahaz of Judah.

Some awesome things you need to know about Hezekiah:

1. He “broke the mold” spiritually: his dad was awful.

How terrible was his father (2 Kings 16:1-4)?

I like Hezekiah because it gives hope to people that don’t grow up in a godly home. That’s the beautiful thing about the LORD. If you don’t live in a house where He is feared, you can change that. God doesn’t punish you for your parents sins.

1. He was a leader who did everything he could do to point his people in the right direction. (2 Kings 18:1-7)

There were some good kings, but did not tear down the high places.

2 Kings 12:3 Nevertheless, the high places were not taken away; the people continued to sacrifice and make offerings on the high places.

Life Lesson: Are there some Asherah poles (high places) that you need to chop down in your life? Some parts of your heart that are not of God? Will you remove them or allow them to be removed?

Talked to a guy this past week. Will you hold back part of your heart?

I don’t want people to say about me, “You know he was a pretty good guy but he…” I want to leave it all on the field for God, to do everything I can to follow Him wholeheartedly.

1. He was a man of great courage.

He actually believed what he proclaimed. Imagine this giant army that has just carried away your brothers.

(2 Chronicles 32:1-8. Who does this sound like? Especially verse 7!)

Committed to a a covenant with God.

Humility.

Resolved.

Prayer.

Give God every part of you, but hold back part.