



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Good Kings – Bad Kings Series, Lesson 20

Lesson Title: Good King Hezekiah

Take Home Point: Whose side are you on? We're on God's side.

Warm-Up:

Imagine you are an athlete with the opportunity to select the football team for whom you will play your entire career. Two teams are available. Both have existed for a long time with records that can be examined. These are the traits of one team: the playbook encourages losing behavior; players can do whatever they want, even if it is detrimental to the game and other players; the team runs up and down the field with ease but never scores; players are treated more cruelly the longer they are on the team; it has no possible chance of winning the championship. The other team's traits? Players work together for one coach with a perfect game plan; players must be disciplined and work hard to succeed in both defense and offense; the playbook has proven success; the coach provides all resources necessary to win; the retirement plan is out of this world; winning the championship is guaranteed. What team would you choose?

Read: 2 Chronicles 29-31

Observation (What happened?):

Why was King Hezekiah so intent on restoring the temple and proper worship of the Lord?

What was God's response to Hezekiah's request to pardon those who were not purified to eat the Passover?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Why do you think the priests and Levites were ashamed (2 Chronicles 30:15)?

Why did the assembly decide to continue the celebration seven more days?

Insight:

It is common to find that people view the God of the Old Testament as different from the God of the New Testament. The perspective is that the Old Testament portrays a God of wrath and judgment, unwilling to be merciful to sinful people, while the New Testament reveals a God of love. But the Bible is remarkably consistent from front to back in both the revealed character of God and how he deals with us. For example, in this week's reading in 2 Chronicles, many people came to Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of Unleavened Bread, but were not purified according to God's instructions. So, to prevent God's judgment on these people, Hezekiah prayed for them. In his mercy, God heard his prayer and "healed them." How different is that from the grace God showed to his disciples and to you and me? Hezekiah prospered because he followed God's ways. How different is that from Jesus promising that his Father would hear and answer our prayers when we ask in his name? God's patience, mercy, and power to act are always the same, as real now as it was then.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

How have you purified your life to be fit for worshipping God?

How do you regularly celebrate the goodness of the Lord?

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