

“Hezekiah: The Trust Like No Other King”

Who’s the Boss? – A series on the Kings

2 Kings 18-20

Introduction: Take your Bibles and turn to 2 Kings 18, 2 Kings chapter 18.

I love the Olympics. What a fantastic display of athletic prowess and artistic ability that just make it so much fun to watch! Most of the sports in the Olympics require all of the athletes to pretty much do the same thing the same way and the competition is to see who can do it better and faster. Hundredths of seconds separate 1st place from 3rd or 4th as the athletes amazingly find a way to just barely beat out the rest. But then there are the artistically oriented sports where the athletes do many of the same things, but their personal touch of flair makes all the difference as the judges grant them higher scores for these amazing expressions. Every Olympic competition holds the hope that one of the athletes will be able to perform a trick on skis or skates or snowboard that no other athlete has yet mastered, and thereby set themselves apart as the runaway winners of the competition. Whether it is the Quad jump in figure skating or the Yolo in the halfpipe for snowboarding, these new moves that are so unlike the rest are guaranteed to put the competitor on the medal podium if only they can complete them. Their success will guarantee that they will be unlike any other athlete in the competition.

This morning we turn our eyes to a king that was unlike any other king. Hezekiah was the 13th king to rule over the two southern most tribes of Israel, known collectively as Judah. He is a descendant of David and he is described in our text as one who did what was right in the eyes of the Lord just like David his father had done. So, here we are, 14 generations after the time of David, and Hezekiah steadfastly follows in his footsteps. But there is something about Hezekiah that was not true about any other king. He trusted in the Lord like no other. Let’s read 2 Kings 18:1-7.

The account of Hezekiah’s life and reign goes on throughout the next three chapters, ending at the end of chapter 20. There is also supplemental information for us about this king found in 2 Chronicles 29-32, but while we cannot consider this morning every detail given to us in these accounts, we must not miss the great lesson of his life. Hezekiah had a trust like no other and for this he was highly commended. This is the central issue of his life as it is recorded for us in these chapters – his trust in the Lord. And he proved himself to be a king who trusted in God like no other king ever had or ever would. I think you will see from the text this morning that this kind of trust is being commended to us. This is a trust that we should embrace and seek to mirror in our own lives. So, what does this kind of unusual trust look like?

1. Singular Trust Has Confidence – 18:5-6

- a. Well, it is a singular trust that has great confidence. This is the idea of the word that is used in verse 5 for “trusted.” It is not a wishing or a hoping or a slight belief in something, but rather it is a confident expectation that provides an overwhelming sense of security to the one who holds it. So, this is the kind of trust that is commended to us in passages like Proverbs 3:5 – “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understandings.” This kind of trust in the Lord brings the results of straight paths, joy and gladness, peace, and the absence of fear according to many different Scriptures. It is a close cousin to faith for the Christian. Faith is the response to revelation that considers what God has said and shown himself to be and determines to stake one’s life upon that revelation. So for instance, saving faith considers the

reality of Jesus and His completed work at Calvary and it responds with a settled belief that this was indeed enough and a confident heart's trust that this will save one's soul. This is faith. Trust on the other hand, closely follows behind faith in that it looks to God's unchanging character to provide hope and security for all of life. So in salvation, faith is the settled belief in Jesus, and trust is the singular confidence that brings security and hope for all of eternity.

- b. This singular trust in Yahweh is an important note in the text because Hezekiah lived in a day where idol worship was as common as a puddle was this past week. It was everywhere. The appeal of an idol was the worshiper's ability to control the outcome of circumstances by simply completing some religious ritual and provoking the god to act on their behalf. You would think manipulative control like this would bring all kinds of security and peace because no matter the situation you would have a supposed answer in the pantheon of idols that existed. So, if you needed rain for your crops, just bow down and worship Baal. If you needed a male child to take over the family farm, just perform some lewd act with the prophet or prophetess of Baal. Whatever you needed, there was a god who could supposedly be controlled by man's mechanisms to meet that need. So, this would seem to give hope and security no matter the foe or the crisis, but it is clear in Scripture that this dependence, this trust, in an idol only brought turmoil, disgrace, and shame. Idolatry that was supposed to give freedom and control only enslaved the worshiper.
- c. So, in the midst of a people who had the pattern of trusting in pagan gods to provide security and hope for all of life, Hezekiah stands out like an albino squirrel in a dark forest in that he trusts singularly in the Lord God of Heaven. This kind of trust is associated in our text with things like doing what was right in the eyes of the Lord, removing the high places, breaking down the pillars of Asherah, breaking the bronze serpent of Moses that had become an idol to them, holding fast to the Lord, and not departing from following him, but keeping the commandments of the Lord.
- d. It has a set direction of life
 - i. This singular trust in Yahweh God had such confidence that there was no other god and such confidence that God's way was the best way that it set a direction for Hezekiah's life. He determined as an act of faith that he was going to stake his life upon God's revelation. He was going to live according to God's Word and do things God's way. This settled confidence set the course for his life. He was going to obey God.
 - ii. And so, in the parallel passage in 2 Chronicles 29 we read that in the very first month of his very first year of his reign, he began the purging and restoration process in the land of Judah. He cleaned out the Temple that had fallen into grave disrepair during the reign of his father Ahaz. He reinstated the Passover which hadn't been kept since the time of Solomon, and a revival among the people broke as they refused to leave after the 7 days of Passover were done. Hezekiah had determined to follow the Lord and so he made sure the nation was obeying the Lord in its public worship. You see, even a nation that had turned from the Lord and allowed the very Temple of the Lord to fall into disrepair did not hinder Hezekiah from stepping out in faith and in faithfulness.
 - iii. In fact, verse 6 says that he held fast to the Lord. This is the word for cleaving to something – like the man to the woman in Genesis two and like one of the mighty men of David who held his sword so long that his hand clave to it and he couldn't put it down. Hezekiah was not letting go of the Lord his God, and this set the direction for his life.
- e. It has a secure hope

- i. This provided then a secure hope for Hezekiah and for the people. They knew where they were going. They knew what God they were serving. They knew who the ultimate authority was in their life. The direction was settled upon Yahweh God. And so therefore they had a secure hope. This secure hope was found in God's promise of turning to heal his people if they would humble themselves before Him and confess their sin and turn their heart toward Him. The God who had been the hope and salvation of generations before would once again be able to save. Hezekiah led the people to this settled direction of trusting in the Lord and ordering all things according to His Word, and this brought a settled and secure hope that prepared them for the crisis moments just around the corner.
- ii. Do you see the connection here? Faith takes God's revelation and believes it and stakes all things upon it. Trust in the Lord follows right behind with a committed cleaving to the Lord no matter the circumstance. This results in a secure hope, a grand confidence – in the life of the believer. Do you know this secure hope, this settled confidence? Is your heart at rest in the sovereign control of God because you have settled your direction in life on following Him? Or, does your life look more like a roller coaster of emotions bouncing with the ups and downs of external circumstances? The key here is not a changing of circumstances, but a change in objects of trust. An idol never produces peace and confidence in the heart. True trust in the Lord never leaves us insecure and without hope. Singular trust in the Lord produces confidence and this proves to be essential for life.

2. Singular Trust Has Necessity

- a. The confidence brought by this singular trust in Yahweh God was also absolutely essential for Hezekiah and the nation of Judah. The text is clear – Hezekiah was a man who had settled his course in life. He was going to follow the Lord and obey Him. And yet, because Hezekiah is human, there was great need for him to run to the Lord in trust because circumstances mounted against him and the nation of Judah. Many of these circumstances were brought on by his own decisions. This is not to say that every one of these decisions were wrong or sinful, though I think some of them were, but it is to say that even a king who is wholly committed to the Lord and to following His ways, will make decisions according to his limited knowledge and power putting him and his nation at risk. To make this point to you I am going to have to just tell you some things that I learned in my study without taking the time to prove it to you. The overall point I am making is that by the time we get to the middle of chapter 18 when Sennacherib sends his entourage to ridicule Hezekiah for trusting in the Lord – Hezekiah has made some decisions, and God has sovereignly overruled in some ways so that Hezekiah has no other crutch to lean on. He and his nation are dead meat against the Assyrians strong army, unless the Lord intervenes.
- b. Early on in Hezekiah's reign Assyria was dealing with things closer to home for them and so their presence and power was weaker in Judah and so Hezekiah had declared independence from Assyria and rebelled against them. This propelled a time in Hezekiah's reign that was coupled with the spiritual reforms that were happening in the Land and through all of this Judah experienced a renaissance of power. Somewhere during this time Hezekiah fell sick with the disease that is described in chapter 20. The author of Kings puts this account last because the author is not tied to chronology in his re-telling of the events. He tells of the Babylonian entourage coming and Hezekiah showing them everything in his kingdom towards the end of his account of Hezekiah because the punishment from the Lord upon Hezekiah for doing this

was a guarantee that his very own sons would sit in exile in Babylon, along with all of the stuff that he showed to them. But this Babylonian entourage actually came during the time of Judah's renaissance when Babylon was also experiencing a surge in power. Most likely what happened is that the Babylonians were interested in any other nations that would partner with them to overthrow the world power of Assyria, and Judah was fast becoming a great option for this. And so, when they heard that Hezekiah had nearly died but then was miraculously healed they probably used this as an excuse to send a diplomatic group to scope out what Judah could bring to the table to overthrow Assyria. Hezekiah most likely knew very well what was going on and so this is why he showed them everything he had. He was making it clear that he had a lot to offer as an ally against Assyria.

- c. But then the tables turned and trust becomes an absolute necessity. Assyria flexes her mighty military arm and drives Babylon back and wages an offensive against all of the countries in the East that have declared independence from them. And so in verse 13 we read – “In the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah, Sennacherib king of Assyria came up against all the fortified cities of Judah and took them.” This was an epic defeat filled with siege ramps and mighty weapons of cutting edge technology. Egypt had also been an ally for Judah during this time, but when they saw the might of Assyria they decided that life on the Nile looked pretty good and so they high-tailed it home. So, here Hezekiah sits. Babylon is beaten back. The ten northern tribes have long been in exile in Assyria. Egypt is long gone. His fortified cities have fallen. Jerusalem is the only one that is left. And so we read in verse 14 – *read vs. 14-16*.
- d. It's unnerving to read of how desperate Hezekiah was forced to be. All the gold and silver he had shown to the Babylonians as a sign of his strength was now in the hands of the Assyrian's bloodthirsty king. And all this did was further enrage the pagan power monger. He responds to the reception of Judah's treasure house by sending an entourage up to Jerusalem to verbally assault Hezekiah. Do you see how many of Hezekiah's own decisions brought him to this point of no crutches, no answers, and seemingly no way out? This is the point. Singular trust was a necessity for Hezekiah because as a finite king ruling in a sin-filled world he was guaranteed to be put in a situation where he had no way out but the mighty power of God. Even this king who ordered his way according to the Lord and trusted like no other king – even this king made decisions that led to a situation like this.
- e. My friend – singular trust in Yahweh God is an absolute necessity for this life of faith. Your own decisions and the decisions of others will force you into situations where there is seemingly no good way out. It is here that singular trust in Yahweh God is an absolute necessity.

3. Singular Trust Has Enemies

- a. This is especially true because singular trust has enemies. If you set the course for your life as one who will follow God and stake your life upon His revelation, you will have enemies who will attack the object of your singular trust. This is what happens with Hezekiah in the rest of chapter 18. The king of Assyria sends his loudest and most obnoxious official to verbally assault Hezekiah and the people of Judah. *Read 18:19-35*.
- b. Do you see what he is doing? Did you hear the word “trust” repeated over and over and over again? This official knows what the central issue is. He knows that in the face of insurmountable odds the only thing that would keep Judah from surrendering would be a supposed trust in a god of their choice. And so he proceeds to attack the object of their trust to show them just how silly it is.
- c. *Enemies attack the object of singular trust:*

- i. By questioning the logic – 18:20
 1. So in verse 20 he attacks the logic of trusting in a god who has simply told you that he will save you. He hasn't given you a mightier military than the Assyrians, he has simply said that he will prove to be your help and your shield. How foolish, O Jerusalem, to trust in mere words rather than mighty military strategy.
 2. How often you will hear this from the enemies of your trust, Christian! How often they will decry the logic of your God and tell you that He can't be real and His word has no power. They will tell you to get a life and live by what you can see rather than staking your life upon a god you have never seen or experienced.
- ii. By challenging His power – 18:22
 1. Then in verse 22 the Rabshakeh attacked the power of the God of Hezekiah. Apparently, news of the reform efforts of Hezekiah had spread all the way to Assyria and the removal of the high places made no sense to them. In their mind, a god who was worshiped everywhere was a god who was everywhere. If you only worshiped a god in one place then that god must only have power in that one place. There was no room in the pagan mind for an all-powerful God who was everywhere and sovereign over everything. Therefore, why would you trust a god who only has power in one place?
 2. Again Christian – take note of the tactics of the enemies of your trust in the Lord. When the crisis hits and your trust in the Lord is demanded they will decry His power and tell you to look to a god who is more able to handle the current problem.
- iii. By offering an alternative – 18:23-24, 31-32
 1. But the attack is not over. The Rabshakeh also offers an alternative. Rather than trusting in this powerless god come and cast your lot with us. You have trusted in the Egyptians before and they have supplied you with horses and horsemen, but they pale in comparison with what we have. Obviously, neither Egypt nor Yahweh can hold a candle to the power of Assyria. You must jump ship of this singular trust and surrender to our control. We will give you your own vineyard and your own land and your own grain. Just trust in us, not in Yahweh.
 2. The attack on your trust in the Lord will always come with an alternative. Once the enemy has diluted your trust by challenging the logic of your trust and the power of the object of your trust an alternative will soon be offered.
- iv. By mitigating his position – 18:27-30, 33-35; 19:8-13
 1. This is soon followed in the text by another attack seeking to mitigate the position of Yahweh God. So he points to Yahweh God as their singular object of trust to save them from the hands of the Assyrians and then he proceeds to tell them that no other god of any other people has been able to save them from the Assyrians. No other people has successfully stood up to the Assyrians, at least according to his revisionist history so as to make a point. What is he saying? He is calling into question the position of Yahweh God and basically saying that He is like all the other gods who haven't been powerful enough to save their people – so why trust in Him?
 2. This is what enemies of singular trust do. They seek to mitigate the un-mitigatable position of God. They seek to minimize the un-minimizable God. They seek to erase an un-erasable God. They seek to call into question the logic of

trusting in Him, challenge his power, and offer an alternative so as to lessen Him and replace Him.

3. Now, listen, he can be replaced in your heart with another object of trust, but he can never be replaced in his position. He is the God of Heaven and Earth. He is the Sovereign and Righteous Ruler over all things, and this will never change – not even if you choose to trust in another god. So, be on guard! Singular trust in God will always have enemies and those enemies will always seek to mitigate God's position so as to replace Him.

4. Singular Trust Has Crises – 18:36-19:2

- a. This puts the people of Judah in a bit of a crisis. And this is a point not to be missed. If you are going to live a life of singular trust in Yahweh God you will have crises. As enemies attack and as others live without singular trust in God, if you so choose to, you will be faced with many a crisis. This is important to know because I think we are often under the false presumption that if I trust in God then even when bad things come I will have such strength that it won't even seem like a crisis. I will keep my happy go lucky Christian smile on because I will be so confident in the salvation of the Lord. Confidence does not avert crisis, it simply directs our steps to navigate them when they come – and come they will.
- b. Notice the response of the officials in verse 37. They come to Hezekiah to tell him what has happened and they come with torn clothes, which was an outward sign of great distress. Then notice Hezekiah's response to their report in the very next verse. Now remember, this is the trust like no other king, and what is his response to the attack of the enemy? He tears his clothes and covers himself with sackcloth and goes to the Temple. Before we rush to evaluate the response of singular trust in the face of crisis and see that it does have answers, don't miss the fact that this is real crisis. These people are really distraught and distressed. They are really in need of God's intervention and help. They are very aware of their own inadequacy. They don't look at the situation and laugh it off as though it is no real crisis. No, they tear their clothes and seek the face of the Lord.
- c. If you set your life to trust in the Lord, your paths will be made straight, but they will not be made without obstacle. You will have no doubt about how to go forward. You will know the will of the Lord as you trust in His all-sufficient Word and the work of His Spirit, but you will still have obstacles and enemies and these will combine to create crises. This makes known to you that Hezekiah's account is not in our Bibles to tell us that trust in the Lord is the great prophylactic to any adversity. We are not to learn from this account that if we will simply trust in the Lord then God will remove all of our obstacles and life will be a breeze and a dream. No, actually the opposite is often true. It will be your singular trust in the Lord that will often put you in positions of crisis as it pits you against enemies of God and unchangeable circumstances. But this does not leave us hopeless. The crisis that singular trust is guaranteed to bring is met with answers of singular trust.

5. Singular Trust Has Answers

- a. So, in the face of the crisis, what do we see in this king who trusted in the Lord like no other king. His unsurpassable trust didn't avert the crisis, but it knew how to navigate it. His trust in the Lord had answers in the crisis.
- b. 19:3-7 – Found through seeking after God
 - i. These answers were found through seeking God. So, what is his response to the news of crisis? He goes to the house of the Lord and he sends officials to go talk to God's prophet to plead with him to seek the Lord on their behalf. The crisis drove them deeper into

their singular trust. They didn't entertain for a moment capitulating and abandoning trust in Yahweh. Rather they sought after Yahweh God. They went to His Temple and they sought out His Word through His prophet. And their seeking is met with an answer from the Lord. Isaiah tells them the Word from the Lord and in essence it says – Don't fear. He reviled me and I will defend my own glory!

- ii. You see, singular trust in Yahweh God has answers in the face of insurmountable crises that are found through seeking Him.
- c. 19:14-19 – Found through seeking God's glory in prayer
 - i. These answers are also found through seeking God's glory in prayer. The big-mouthed Rabshakeh returned to his king to pass on the word that Hezekiah has been adequately warned and reasoned with. And just to drive home the point he sends a letter to Hezekiah rehearsing how foolish it would be to trust in God. So, what does Hezekiah do with this letter? He takes it to the Temple and he spreads it before the Lord and prays. This tells me of the fear that Hezekiah is still fighting in his heart. Remember, none of the circumstances have yet changed. It is only a matter of days until the mighty Assyrian army marches up to Jerusalem to lay siege to it and most likely overthrow it. These words of assault in the letter are not empty words. There is real physical power behind these words.
 - ii. And so as Hezekiah's trust in the Lord is yet again assaulted, what does he do? He prays. This prayer should be a message in itself, but notice how he prays. He is careful about how he approaches the God of Heaven. He takes great pain to lay out the wonderful attributes of the God he is praying to. He is the God of His people. He is enthroned above the cherubim. He is God, the singular God who is over all the kingdoms of the earth. Indeed, He is the creator of heaven and earth. You see, we would do well to follow Hezekiah's pattern. We should give thought to how we address the God of the universe in prayer because speaking truth to God about God confirms our own assurance in God.
 - iii. Hezekiah goes from worship of God to stating the problem in verses 16-18. In stating the problem, Hezekiah gets it right. The kings of Assyria have laid waste to other nations who have worshiped other gods, but these were not gods, but simply the works of human hands. This nation has mocked the Lord. Sennacherib has even written it down, and Hezekiah has literally laid those words before the Lord and said to God – Lord, look at this! He has mocked you – the living and all-powerful God.
 - iv. Then in verse 19 Hezekiah makes his supplication. And what does he ask for? Well, salvation of course! But it is not stated like you might think. He doesn't simply want God to save them, he wants God to save them so that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that Yahweh God alone is the one true God. Hezekiah does not simply want deliverance – though he will be glad when that comes. Hezekiah is desperate for God's glory to be seen through this situation, and this informs his prayer. He doesn't just want God to change things so that he can have added comfort or smoother paths. He doesn't just want God to remove obstacles and overthrow enemies so that Hezekiah can be blessed. No, Hezekiah will not be satisfied with anything less than the glory of God being seen by all through this situation – and so he prays. And in prayer, he pleads with the Lord for Him to work according to the display of His own glory. This is the kind of prayer that God is pleased to answer. There is great answer to your crisis moments of trust in the Lord here. The answers to the enemies of your trust can be found in this type of praying. Prayer that rightly and carefully addresses God. Prayer that rightly sees the problem for what it is –

an attack on God Himself – and prayer that seeks the glory of God through providing whatever is necessary for that to happen.

- v. I had a situation this past week where I was confronted with how to pray in the face of insurmountable circumstances. I have told you at various times about my brother. His life over the last few years has been one of unending opportunities to express trust in the Lord. This past summer he started his own construction company and it has gone unbelievably well. He has grown to over 20 employees in a matter of months with several million dollars of work on tab for 2014. And yet he found himself this last week with not enough money to pay payroll to his employees. Several checks that have been long overdue from jobs that have long since been completed just hadn't come in yet. And so by Wednesday, panic was beginning to set in as he realized that his business that was going so well was on the brink of collapse. As we talked through this over the phone we wrestled through how to pray, and believe you me we certainly were committed to praying for God to supply the needed funds to do payroll, but there was a concern dominating even this need of money, and this concern was God's glory. As my Bible lay open on my desk and I read and prayed for my brother I was captured with the longing that God in His sovereign control of all things must do whatever would bring him the most glory in this situation. Whether providing the money or not – whatever would be the best path to making His glory known in the many who would be affected. These are the kinds of prayers that God answers – as seen from Hezekiah's life. God did provide the money by the way and for this He alone deserves the praise!
- d. 19:20-37 – Found through Providence Proving Power
 - i. The answer that trust provides in the face of crisis is also found through providence proving power. So, the response in the text to Hezekiah's prayer for God's glory is a prophecy from Isaiah that makes known the unbelievable arrogance of Sennacherib and his sure and soon demise. This prophecy makes clear that Sennacherib will have no entrance at all into the city of Jerusalem and will do it no harm. And so, sure enough in verses 35-37 we read of a miraculous and powerful movement of the angel of the Lord which strikes down 185,000 troops in their sleep, and this sight of dead bodies sends the Assyrians trucking for home.
 - ii. You see, God may not always intervene with such amazing acts of power, but His providence in all situations will always prove his power. Hezekiah's singular trust in Yahweh God did not disappoint. God had answers that were found through this expression of power that made known God's unstoppable providence, which displayed His glory. Singular trust in God has answers!

6. Singular Trust Has a Warning – 2 Kings 20

- a. But singular trust in God also has a warning. This warning is that in the king who trusted in God like no other, there was still a possibility of a misstep in this trust. This is what chapter 20 shows us. This happened early in Hezekiah's reign – 15 years before his death. His illness pushes him to seek God's mercy. And so in the physical trouble of illness Hezekiah found God's compassion and mercy unwrapped to him. And then this account of walking by faith is followed by a display of walking by sight. When the Babylonians come a calling, he is more than happy to entertain how they can work together to defeat Assyria and so he shows them all the treasury that he has in his kingdom. And this was a giant misstep of mistrust. It is not blatant in the text that mistrust was at the heart of the issue, but I don't know how to slice it any other way. Why else would you open up the treasuries to foreign emissaries than to brag to them about your

strength so as to prove your ability to help them defeat the world power? This is an act of sight, not faith. This is an act of self-trust and self-confidence, not God-trust and God-confidence.

- b. So, hear the warning. Even the king who trusted in the Lord like no other king had a moment of mistrust and self-trust. This fact alone should put you on the hunt in your heart for evidence of mistrust or self-trust. This should put you on guard and set you to work to apply the lesson from this Scripture to your life.

Conclusion: So, where are you facing the crisis of trust today? Where are the enemies of this trust attacking you? It may be a spiritual battle against depression or a struggle in a relationship or a physical illness or a financial strain. Whatever it is, singular trust in the Lord has answers. Run to our sovereign Lord and trust in Him! Let's pray.

Lord's Table:

One of the recurring themes in our study of the Kings has been the constant expressions of God's mercy and grace upon His people. Over and over again he was slow to anger and abounded in steadfast love toward them. And yet, so often their response to His grace and mercy was ingratitude. They often just presumed upon his mercy and grace and kept on living in their sinful ways. This is not the proper response to grace. The proper response to grace is gratitude that comes out in a life of sacrificial service to the Lord.

As a church we come to the Lord's Table regularly because we have been commanded to do so by our Lord. One of the reasons He has commanded us to do so is to give us a time to reflect upon the amazing grace we have been shown so as to stir the right response of gratitude in our souls. It is easy to presume upon God's grace. It is easy to continue on in sin and take for granted the forgiveness of God provided through Christ. But may this time prove to be a call to our hearts to live a life of gratitude that is serious about sacrificial service and about purity from sin.

In 1 Corinthians 11 we read this. *Read 1 Cor. 11:23-26.* Paul goes on in the text to instruct them that they are not to come to the Table in an unworthy or unfitting manner. The problem with the Corinth church was that they had neglected the purpose of the Lord's Table and had turned it into a self-serving event of food and drink. But Paul reminds them that this Table is not about food and drink, but it is about remembering. And this remembering of the sacrifice of Jesus on our behalf should produce in us hearts filled with thankfulness so that we can say with Paul in 2 Corinthians 9 – Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift! So, Christian, this time is for you to check your heart and see if you are walking in purity of life that is filled with gratitude toward God for what he has done on the cross of Calvary. If you are not, now is the time to mend what has been broken by seeking God's forgiveness.

If you are not a Christian then this Table is not for you. We are glad you are here with us, but it is okay for you to simply pass the plate by when it comes to you. No one will look down on you or think ill of you. The last thing we would want you to do is partake in something that has no meaning to you and would therefore profane the Lord's Table. So before we partake, let us each examine ourselves, confessing sin and expressing gratitude. Let's pray silently.

Silent Prayer

Prayer of Thanksgiving for the Body broken for us – RJ Krystowiak

Distribution of the Bread

Read 1 Corinthians 11:24

Prayer of Thanksgiving for the blood shed for us – Don Kelton

Read 1 Corinthians 11:25

Prayer of Longing for the return of Christ
Congregational Song (Acapella) – There is a Redeemer

Benediction - May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. (Rom 15:13 ESV)

Questions for Application:

- Does this type of singular trust reside in your heart? Is it the kind of trust in the Lord that sets an immovable direction for your life and that meets the moments of spiritual crises with answers that only God can supply?
- What are the enemies attacking of your trust in the Lord? In what way is the logic of your trust being questioned, the power of God being challenged, the alternative being made to look better, or the position of God being mitigated?
 - Where is it in your spiritual walk that you are facing a crisis of trust?
 - What answer is there to this crisis? How does our study today help you to find those answers?
- What is the warning found in Hezekiah's life about singular trust? Think through the healthy fear that this should strike in your heart. What can you do to meet those well-founded fears?