

Hezekiah, the Fool (Part 1)

2 Kings 18-19

1. Sometimes things seem foolish, but they actually turn out to be the right course of action
 - a. The scarcity of steel during World War I spurred San Francisco businessman William Leslie Comyn to build ships out of a seemingly foolish substitute -- concrete.
 - i. If you don't understand the science, it seems ridiculous! But it works.
 - b. The S.S. Atlantis was one of a dozen concrete ships that were built, and it criss-crossed the Atlantic several times, hauling cargo and troops. In 1926 she was docked in Cape May when a storm broke her loose and ran her aground, just off of Sunset Beach. They tried to pick her up but... concrete.
 - c. Concrete ships... Seems foolish, but it works
 - d. We: Constantly faced with common sense vs. foolishness (logic vs. the Bible)
 - i. The world is the way that it is b/c someone ate a piece of fruit (...)
 - ii. Obey Jesus regardless of the consequences (easy for you to say)
 - iii. Give sacrificially and you'll be surprised (yea. right)
 - iv. Invite your friend to read the Bible and they might say yes (uh...)
 - e. These things might seem foolish, but often it feels like God pushes us to operate in the kingdom of folly. Why? What's his angle? What does the Bible say?
 - f. Last week we saw the ruin of the Northern Kingdom
 - g. This week, we see an alternative in the epitaph of Hezekiah.
 - h. 2 Kings 18:5 Hezekiah relied on the Lord God of Israel; not one of the kings of Judah was like him, either before him or after him. 6 He remained faithful to the Lord and did not turn from following him but kept the commands the Lord had commanded Moses. 7 The Lord was with him, and wherever he went he prospered. He rebelled against the king of Assyria and did not serve him.*
 - i. How did he earn such an incredible heritage?
2. Hezekiah's story
 - a. Walk through 2 Kings 18...
 - i. "Hezekiah, you'd be a fool to not listen to this guy..."
 - ii. But God has always invited us to foolishness (in the eyes of the world)
 - iii. Proverbs 3:5-6, Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding; in all your ways know him, and he will make your paths straight.*
 - iv. Proverbs 29:25, The fear of mankind is a snare, but the one who trusts in the Lord is protected.*
 - v. What is foolish? To cave to a tyrant or to trust in the one who rules?
 - vi. **You're not a fool to trust in the one who actually does rule**
 - b. Walk through 2 Kings 19
 - i. Who's the fool now?

- ii. **You're not a fool to trust in the one who actually does rule**
- 3. Why does God operate like this? Because God has chosen the foolish things of the world to make much of his glory...
 - a. *1 Corinthians 1:26 Brothers and sisters, consider your calling [to follow Jesus]: Not many were wise from a human perspective, not many powerful, not many of noble birth.*
 - i. God didn't pick Israel b/c they were the biggest or the strongest...
 - ii. God didn't pick Hezekiah b/c he was a baller... or David... or Moses...
 - iii. God didn't pick you b/c you were the best, brightest → survival of fittest
 - b. *27 Instead, God has chosen what is foolish in the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen what is weak in the world to shame the strong. 28 God has chosen what is insignificant and despised in the world—what is viewed as nothing—to bring to nothing what is viewed as something,*
 - i. God has chosen Hezekiah and Israel to trust while HE defeats Assyria
 - ii. Why? b/c he's mean? B/c he likes and underdog?
 - c. *29 so that no one may boast in his presence.*
 - i. That doesn't just mean the king of Assyria... be careful who you taunt...
 - ii. That means you...
 - 1. Boasting in your good work... (God chose me b/c...) religion... (God chose me b/c...) heritage...(God chose me b/c...) mind... (God needs me b/c...) skill set... (God needs me b/c...)
 - iii. No boasting in ourselves
 - d. *30 It is from him that you are in Christ Jesus, who became wisdom from God for us—our righteousness, sanctification, and redemption,*
 - i. Why could Hezekiah embrace the foolishness of the world and trust in God? B/c first off it was a gift from God. God empowered him to trust
 - ii. And... **You're not a fool to trust in the one who actually does rule**
 - iii. For Hezekiah, trusting in God became wisdom... (I'm not gonna back down from this messenger). His trust made him upright and righteous in God's sight...His foolish trust made him grow in godliness (like a muscle, Prov 3:5-6)... His foolish trust brought him redemption and brought Assyria shame
- iv. **You're not a fool to trust in the one who actually does rule**
- v. And this is the gospel...
 - 1. The cross is foolishness...
 - a. Trust in Jesus? Pfft. Go to heaven regardless of what you've done? Pfft. Someone rising from the dead? Please.
 - b. Fables. Myths. Foolishness.
 - 2. And God says, "What you think is foolishness I count as wisdom."
 - 3. So becoming a fool to trust in the one who actually does rule, submitting to him, trusting in his ways... look what it brings
 - a. Wisdom. Righteousness. Sanctification. Redemption.
 - b. That's not foolish at all, is it?

- vi. Why? So you can 'neener neener neener' at the Assyrians b/c you stood up to them like a boss? So you can pat yourself on the back b/c you had the foresight to trust in God while that other chump didn't? No...

e. 31 in order that, as it is written: Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.

- i. So that God gets the glory no matter what. That's why.

4. Triangle

a. Recenter on the gospel of trust

- i. To the world, the gospel is a fool's invitation. Don't trust in your works, just trust that God will take care of it. Does that work in any other area of life?
 1. Don't bother eating better, just trust it will work out
 2. Don't bother managing your money, just trust it will be ok
 3. Don't show up for work, it'll be fine

ii. Foolish. Folly. But,

iii. **You're not a fool to trust in the one who actually does rule**

b. Are you in a situation? You surely are, aren't you? We all are

- i. What's your best course of action? Panic? Worry? Stress? Manipulation?
- ii. Or calm, steady trust in God?
- iii. **You're not a fool to trust in the one who actually does rule**
- iv. It will result in your sanctification... (for the testing of your faith produces endurance and endurance maturity, jms 1:3-4)
- v. your wisdom... (wisdom from above is pure, peace-loving, gentle, compliant, merciful, full of good fruit, jms 3:17)
- vi. your growth... (suffering labor pains for you Christ is formed in you. Gal 4:19)

c. Friends are in a bind? What advice do you give?

- i. Do you look at the situation and think about how to deal with it logically, drawing on your wealth of experience?
- ii. Do you speak the gospel of trusting in Jesus, reminding one another, Will not he who did not even spare his own Son but offered him up for us all. Will he not also with him grant us everything?
- iii. When in conflict, what do you do? In the world's eyes, it is foolish to rebuke someone... it is foolish to forgive someone... But.
- iv. **You're not a fool to trust in the one who actually does rule**

d. The world? Where are they placing their hope? True foolishness. What do we do?

- i. Is it loving to let them look at the king of Assyria and say, "Fear him. Do what he says" or is it better to point them to something greater... someone greater...
- ii. **You're not a fool to trust in the one who actually does rule**