

DON'T LISTEN TO THE ENEMY

TEXT: (II Kings 18:31-32, NIV)

³¹ “Do not listen to Hezekiah. This is what the king of Assyria says: Make peace with me and come out to me. Then every one of you will eat from his own vine and fig tree and drink water from his own cistern, ³² until I come and take you to a land like your own, a land of grain and new wine, a land of bread and vineyards, a land of olive trees and honey. Choose life and not death!

INTRODUCTION

A. Don't Yield to the Enemy

1. “In the third year of Hoshea son of Elah king of Israel, Hezekiah son of Ahaz king of Judah began to reign. He was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem twenty-nine years. His mother's name was Abijah daughter of Zechariah. He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, just as his father David had done. He removed the high places, smashed the sacred stones and cut down the Asherah poles. He broke into pieces the bronze snake Moses had made, for up to that time the Israelites had been burning incense to it. (It was called Nehushtan.)” (II Kings 18:1-4, NIV).
2. “He rebelled against the king of Assyria and did not serve him. From watchtower to fortified city, he defeated the Philistines, as far as Gaza and its territory” (II Kings 18:7-8, NIV).
3. “‘I have done wrong. Withdraw from me, and I will pay whatever you demand of me.’ The king of Assyria exacted from Hezekiah king of Judah three hundred talents of silver and thirty talents of gold. So Hezekiah gave him all the silver that was found in the temple of the Lord and in the treasuries of the royal palace.
At this time Hezekiah king of Judah stripped off the gold with which he had covered the doors and doorposts of the temple of the LORD, and gave it to the king of Assyria” (II Kings 18:14-16, NIV).
4. “Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. ‘All this I will give you,’ he said, ‘if you will bow down and worship me’” (Matthew 4:8-9, NIV).
5. “Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help, who rely on horses, who trust in the multitude of their chariots and in the great strength of their horsemen, but do not look to the Holy One of Israel, or seek help from the LORD” (Isaiah 31:1, NIV).
6. “I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents” (Luke 15:10, NIV).

B. Because of the Angels

1. “If you say, ‘The LORD is my refuge,’ and you make the Most High your dwelling, no harm will overtake you, no disaster will come near your tent. For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways” (Psalm 91:9-11, NIV).
2. “The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them” (Psalm 34:7, NIV).
3. “Does not the very nature of things teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a disgrace to him” (I Corinthians 11:14, NIV).

4. "Every man who prays or prophesies with long hair dishonors his head. And every woman who prays or prophesies with no covering of hair on her head dishonors her head—she is just like one of the 'shorn women.' If a woman has no covering let her be for now with short hair, but since it is a disgrace for a woman to have her hair shorn or shaved, she should grow it again. A man ought not to have long hair" (I Corinthians 11:4-7, NIV Alternate Translation).
5. "For this reason, and because of the angels, the woman ought to have a sign of authority on her head" (1 Corinthians 11:10, NIV).

I. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DEVIL

1. "One day the angels came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them" (Job 1:6, NIV).
2. "On another day the angels came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them to present himself before him" (Job 2:1, NIV).
3. "After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to [Jesus] and said, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread'" (Matthew 4:2-3, NIV).

A. Masquerades as an Angel of Light

1. "Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light" (II Corinthians 11:14, NIV).
2. "Do not listen to Hezekiah" (II Kings 18:31, NIV).
3. "Make peace with me and come out to me. Then every one of you will eat from his own vine and fig tree and drink water from his own cistern, until I come and take you to a land like your own, a land of grain and new wine, a land of bread and vineyards, a land of olive trees and honey. Choose life and not death" (II Kings 18:31-32, NIV)!
4. "The whole world is under the control (influence) of the evil one" (I John 5:19, NIV).
5. "The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God" (II Corinthians 4:4, NIV).

B. An Accuser of God's People

1. "For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down" (Revelation 12:10, NIV).

C. Liar

1. "He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies" (John 8:44, NIV).
2. "'You will not surely die,' the serpent said to the woman" (Genesis 3:4, NIV).

II. FAILING DOES NOT HAVE TO BE FATAL

A. All Are Subject to Failure

1. "Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin" (Psalm 51:1-2, NIV).

2. "Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me" (Psalm 51:7-12, NIV).

B. Failing Is Not God's Will

1. "My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world" (1 John 2:1-2, NIV).
2. "To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy—to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen" (Jude 24-25, NIV).
3. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9, NIV).

C. Fail Forward

1. "Do not gloat over me, my enemy! Though I have fallen, I will rise. Though I sit in darkness, the LORD will be my light. Because I have sinned against him, I will bear the LORD'S wrath, until he pleads my case and establishes my right. He will bring me out into the light; I will see his righteousness. Then my enemy will see it and will be covered with shame, she who said to me, 'Where is the LORD your God?' My eyes will see her downfall; even now she will be trampled underfoot like mire in the streets" (Micah 7:8-10, NIV).

III. GET BACK ON TRACK

A. Evaluate the Present Position

1. "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if *there be any* wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting" (Psalm 139:3-4, KJV).

B. Setting Short- and Long-term Goals

1. "But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD" (Joshua 24:15, KJV).

C. Spiritual Goals for the Family

1. "Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain" (Psalm 127:1, NIV).

CONCLUSION:

1. "Return to him you have so greatly revolted against, O Israelites. For in that day every one of you will reject the idols of silver and gold your sinful hands have made. 'Assyria will fall by a sword that is not of man; a sword, not of mortals, will devour them. They will flee before the sword and their young men will be put to forced labor. Their stronghold will fall because of terror; at sight of the battle standard their commanders will panic,' declares the LORD, whose fire is in Zion, whose furnace is in Jerusalem" (Isaiah 31:6-9, NIV).