For Small Group Discussion

 -What is your letter from Assyria? What is causing you panic and fear right now?

 -What is your normal crises management style? Do you go to friends? Do you try and fix it?

 -What might it look like to come to God in Jesus name and completely unfold things before Him?

 Spend some time doing this together.

 Have a great week. We love you!

 Jay and Mona

“Hezekiah’s Prayer” Pastor Jay Cave
 Text: 2 Kings 19:10-20 4/26/2014 BPCC
 Also 2 King 18-20; 2 Chr. 29-32, and Isaiah 36-39
 Sermon Notes:

For Your Consideration:
 This week we again look at the ***earnest prayer,*** which James tells us has great power “as it is working” (5:16) The Bible is full of such prayers: Jacob hiding from Esau (Genesis 32:9-12); Moses when God was going to destroy the Hebrews (Exodus 32:11-13); Hannah beseeching God for a child (1 Samuel 1:9-18); David (all throughout the Psalms); Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36-46); the disciples at the arrest of Peter (Acts 12:5). These were effective, fervent, passionate prayers that produces results.
 Today we look at another powerful prayer from the lips of Hezekiah, one of Judah’s great kings. When Hezekiah came to the throne (700BC apprx.), Judah was basically a vassal state of the Assyrian Empire. The goal of his career was to regain the national sovereignty lost by his evil father Ahaz. However, when Hezekiah began resisting the ruler-ship of Assyria, trouble began. Sennacherib, king of Assyria, marched on Judah and took 200,000 captives. When they arrived in Judah, the Assyrian officials mocked, berated, and insulted Judah, Hezekiah, and Israel’s God. Hezekiah panicked. He tried to bribe Sennacherib, he went to Egypt to ask for support, he fortified the city, he went to Isaiah and asked for encouragement. However he remained inconsolable.
 Our text today is the threatening letter sent to Hezekiah by Sennacherib promising total destruction if Judah did not surrender. It is an eerie piece of literature, full of threat and malice. Hezekiah did the only thing he could do. He went to God, unfolded the letter and prayed.

 What is your letter from Assyria? What piece of news is causing fear and anxiety? And what is your typical *crises management* style? Do you fun to friends? Do you try and fix the problem? Do you close the doors and sink into bed? Well, it might be wise to realize that **there are times when we must go to God alone.**
 **1. Go confidently in Jesus name.** Hezekiah “went up to the house and spread it out before the Lord” (vs. 14). He went to the temple, the meeting place between God and man at that time (see 2 Chronicles 7:14,15). For believers today, that meeting place is Jesus who promised, “Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.” (John 14:13).
 **2. Believe that God has brought you to this place to glorify himself.** Hezekiah seemed to know this. In verse 19, he says, “So now, O Lord our God, save us, please, from his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that you, O Lord, are God alone.” Hezekiah knew that God would get the glory. (See Moses’ story on the banks of the Red Sea @ Exodus 14:1-14, especially verse 4 for a similar situation).
 **3. Simply say “I can’t but You can.”** The Christian life can be summed up in this one sentence. God must get us to the place where we realize this, or we will never rely on our Savior. As long as we think we can do something about it, Jesus cannot work. However, the moment we understand, “God is a very present help in time of trouble” (Psalm 46:1). The end of this story was wonderful. Judah was spared & Sennacherib returned to Assyrian and was assassinated.