

The King's Highway

AN ADVOCATE OF SCRIPTURAL HOLINESS

VOL. XXXIX

MONCTON, N. B., NOVEMBER 30, 1962

No. 21

— Our Pastors Speak —



HEZEKIAH'S UNGRATEFULNESS

by Rev. B. G. Bridgeo

"But Hezekiah rendered not again according to the benefit done unto him". II Chronicles 32:25

May I ask you to read the thirty-second chapter of II Chronicles, for it is here that you will find a summary of the life of this king.

We should not have been surprised if the text had been recorded of Cain, who with haughty self-complacency offered his sacrifice to God, but whose offering evidently had no respect to his own sinfulness or the provision of a Saviour, or if the text had been spoken of the murmuring Israelites who were filled with discontent despite all of God's miracles showed them while in the wilderness; but the text is spoken of Hezekiah.

Let us consider the text as it relates to this king. Hezekiah received gracious benefits from the hand of God. Two events have recently transpired; he had been sick, nigh unto death; but God had heard his prayer, and moved with compassion, had healed him and added fifteen years to his life. Then, the powerful Assyrian monarch, Sennacherib, with an army so numerous and powerful as to fill the Israelites with the utmost dismay were at the gates. God sent his angel, and in one night 185,000 of the Assyrian army were slain. Without battle, and without the aid of Hezekiah's army. These were extraordinary acts of God's goodness and mercy. Surely they would elicit the most fervent gratitude and praise; yet it is said that Hezekiah failed to render to God any praise whatsoever!

The context of our lesson depicts weakness. We must see this described. II Kings 20: 12 Hearing and witnessing the miracles which had been wrought, the enemies of Israel came to visit the honored and distinguished monarch. In this he allowed his heart to be lifted up. With pride he showed them his riches! He did not give God the glory for all the riches he possessed, and what a mistake he made. He openly showed before coveting eyes all the riches of his kingdom and created a desire in the hearts of his enemy to get, in any way they could, all that their eyes beheld. So in the days not too distant

after he had gone, the armies of Babylon took advantage of the weak Manasseh who succeeded Hezekiah to the throne, plundered Jerusalem and carried away all the treasures of the kingdom.

Sin can be forgiven but scars will remain. Hezekiah repented, found favor and was buried with his fathers in the chiefest of the sepulchres of the sons of David with honor. However his pride in displaying all his riches brought doom upon his beloved people and kingdom.

Is there not here for us a lesson to be learned? God has filled your cup to overflowing, but not to be hoarded, or wasted, but to run in streams of goodness to those who need our help. God will bless those who seek to bless others. "I was hungry and ye fed me," etc. So there remains a grave danger of falling into the sin of Hezekiah, not to render to God our gratitude and praise for his favors and mercies. God will forgive our sin of neglect or sin of pride as he did with Hezekiah. But the scars as a result of carelessness may remain to haunt us, and remind others of the weakness and frailty of man. Keep imitating God's mercy, love, and kindness, thus glorifying God and proving to the world that God's grace is sufficient for us.

DIGBY CHURCH DEDICATED

Reformed Baptists made history at Digby, Nova Scotia, on Monday, November 12, when a fine basement church, 28 X 45, was dedicated to the glory of God and the salvation of souls.

A capacity congregation attended the service as well as twenty ordained ministers. Rev. H. M. Kimball, pastor of the new church, was in charge of the service.

Rev. H. R. Ingersoll, Alliance Superintendent, preached the sermon and Rev. N. E. Trafton, now serving on the faculty of Bethany Bible College, offered the prayer of dedication. Other clergymen taking part included Revs: H. B. Ricker, Marven Durling, R. G. Morehouse, M. W. Bagley, and J. A. Stevens.

Greetings to the new church were expressed by two local clergymen, representing the Pentecostal and the Disciples of Christ denominations. Special singing included a duet by Mrs. H. B. Ricker and Mrs. John Smith and a solo by Mr. Bill Norris of the Saint John Church.

High commendation is due to those whose vision, faith, and hard labor brought this new church building into being. Although many had a part in the work, the names of at least four men should be mentioned who donated extensive time, Rev. J. A. Stevens, Rev. H. B. Ricker, Rev. Ronald Madden, and Mr. Glen McCrea.

Some bills on the new building are still outstanding. Those who are willing to help have been asked to mail their contribution, marked "Digby" to Rev. J. A. Stevens, 19 Beacon St., Yarmouth, N. S.

DEC. 9 IS DENOMINATIONAL DOLLAR DAY

The King's Highway