

Sermon Reflections

The False Hope of Self Reliance (Isaiah 22:1-14)

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Summary: At the core, self-reliance is arrogance that leads to destruction and emphasizes our need for a Savior. Isaiah prophesied about the future kingdom of Babylon conquering the nation of Judah and the city of Jerusalem. He called the people to trust in the Lord God who had rescued them time and time again.

1. God calls us to faithful obedience during trials.

- What good will God bring out of faithful obedience during trials? See James 1:2-4; Romans 5:3-5; Romans 8:28-29; 1 Peter 1:6-7.

2. When we sin, God responds.

- What is the difference in His response when we repent versus when we stubbornly continue to sin?

3. Isaiah grieved at what he saw.

- How do you tend to respond to the bad news of current affairs?
- Are you more likely to respond with fear and worry or with faith and trust? Why?

4. The people depended upon their perceived adequate precautions but failed to acknowledge the One who brought all of this about. (v. 11)

- What must we remember in the midst of our own troublesome affairs?
- What should our attitude be?

5. The call to repentance and the self-reliant way the people ignored that call. (vv. 12-14)

- What was the result? Why is actual repentance important?
- When you become anxious, where do you first tend to look for comfort or a solution? The news? A friend? Distraction/Avoidance? Prayer? Discuss.
- Read 2 Timothy 3:16. In the midst of trouble, how does your life show that you believe and value the Word of God?
- Read Philippians 4:5-8. What are two ways that obeying these admonitions will help as we go through times of trouble?