

How many of you have heard of Hezekiah Syndrome? I was unaware of it until recently. Hezekiah syndrome is the fancy name for being spiritually shortsighted. You're just thinking of the here and now and not for the future, spiritually speaking. And I think that sometimes we get Hezekiah Syndrome; that sometimes it happens to me and you whenever we're paying the least attention to it.

Its origin is found in the story in **2Kgs.20:16-19**.

**Here's what happens:**

- Isaiah delivers the message from the LORD of Hezekiah's death
- Hezekiah weeps, prays and the LORD grants him 15 more years
- King of Babylon hears he is better and pays Hezekiah a visit
- Hezekiah shows him all his treasure (out of pride and vainglory)
- Isaiah prophesies of Babylon destroying Judah

This is obviously horrible news and yet the Bible tells us that Hezekiah was content with it! All because there would *at least* be peace in his day. As long as things were all right in his time, he would be happy and content. Talk about spiritual short-sightedness, right?

And we're human like he was, so we're no better. We've all suffered from this from time to time. We've all from time to time, drifted into making sure everything would be alright for us spiritually (now)...but have we done what's needful today to prepare for those of tomorrow?

In all truth, out of all the kings, Hezekiah was actually a good king. He restored the worship of Yahweh, the LORD. He did many good things in the name of His God. He walked before Him in faithfulness and with his whole heart. But the ruin

and destruction of the nation of Judah was due in part to him *not being concerned with the future*. “As long as things are good in MY DAY...” So, he ultimately fathered one of the most wicked kings: Manasseh.

With the mentality Hezekiah had, it’s no wonder Manasseh turned out the way he did. Hezekiah must not have trained his son or taught his son well about the precepts of God. He did not disciple his son.

Manasseh, his son, would go on to practically reverse any good done by his father and turn the worship back over to idols. So much so that **2Kgs.21:9** says Manasseh led them to do more evil than even the nations whom the LORD destroyed. So much evil that even when Josiah comes on the scene to destroy all the pollution of idolatry out of Judah and restore Judah to right worship of Yahweh, God says He still will not turn from His burning wrath that Manasseh provoked Him to (**2Kgs.23:26, 27**). You can only wonder that something must have gone wrong with the parenting. Somewhere, somehow God was not being instilled in Manasseh - all because of Hezekiah syndrome (spiritual shortsightedness). Because Hezekiah was not concerned with the future wellbeing of his nation nor spiritual wellbeing of his son, because Manasseh was not disciplined and therefore did wickedness: destruction.

### **Don’t Put Up With Hezekiah Syndrome!**

We should not be content with things going well in our lifetime only...and that’s it. We must be concerned about the future of the church, gospel and the salvation of our children.

Hopefully we’re doing what’s necessary now to cultivate the faith of our children for a godly, productive future in the name of Jesus.

Hezekiah was a good king and you might be a good Christian, but we all must take heed, lest we fall.

There is an **antidote** to Hezekiah syndrome and that's God's word. You'll find that the answer, the antidote, what the Bible tells us to do is just to make disciples out of our children. Teach them God's word. And show them God's word. That's really all we can do and then trust the rest to God. The same principle of planting and watering...yet God gives the increase (**1Cor.3:6**).

However, that being said, if our children are plants, how well are we cultivating them? Are we planting/watering? God will give the increase *if* someone is planting/watering. You go into anyone's home and you can tell pretty quickly which ones care about the plants, which ones don't and *which ones don't have the time*.

How we or our children spend their time reflects, in a sense, what's most important to them. Do we really expect for them to be godly Christians when all we've done with their time is tell them to go to college, help them with their homework, and getting them involved with so many afterschool activities and programs – *that all we're REALLY doing is teaching them how to be too busy for God?* They have all the time in the world. If they're too busy for God when they're young, they will be when they're older.

When you look at the Bible, so much can be said for the example we set for others. Jesus spent three years living so closely, so intimately with 12 others that He might **SHOW** them, **teach** them, **train** them and **disciple** them through example.

As parents, what are we teaching our children through our lifestyles? Do we lead lives that reflect that we're too busy for God? If we want our children in heaven, we need to **show** we're serious about getting there.

If we want children that go around visiting and helping the elderly members...we need to go around visiting and helping the elderly members.

Or teaching Bible class.

And sharing the gospel.

And assembling with Christians.

And studying our Bibles, etc.

Really take to heart the following principles: "Now this is the commandment—the statutes and the rules—that the LORD your God commanded me to teach you, that you may do them in the land to which you are going over, to possess it, that you may fear the LORD your God, you and your son and your son's son, by keeping all his statutes and his commandments, which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be long. Hear therefore, O Israel, and be careful to do them, that it may go well with you, and that you may multiply greatly, as the LORD, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey.

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your

eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”  
(De.6.1-9).