


When Your Kids Don't Turn Out Like You Thought They Would


2 Kings 18 & 20 & 2 Chronicles 32 & 33


The dad did a lot of **TERRIFIC** things but **FORGOT A VERY IMPORTANT** thing.


1. Hezekiah was not **interested in ruling like his dad did.**

 2 Kings 18:5–7a (NIV) “Hezekiah trusted in the Lord, the God of Israel. There was no one like him among all the kings of Judah, either before him or after him. ⁶ He held fast to the Lord and did not cease to follow Him; he kept the commands the Lord had given Moses. ⁷ And the Lord was with him; he was successful in whatever he undertook.”


2. Hezekiah was not **quick to give up.**


 2 Kings 20:1 (NIV) “In those days Hezekiah became ill and was at the point of death. The prophet Isaiah son of Amoz went to him and said, “This is what the Lord says: Put your house in order, because you are going to die; you will not recover.”

 2 Kings 20:2–3 (NIV) “Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed to the Lord, ³ “Remember, O Lord, how I have walked before you faithfully and with wholehearted devotion and have done what is good in your eyes.” And Hezekiah wept bitterly.”

 2 Kings 20:4-6 (NIV) “Before Isaiah had left the middle court, the word of the Lord came to him: ⁵ “Go back and tell Hezekiah, the leader of my people, ‘This is what the Lord, the God of your father David, says: I have heard your prayer and seen your tears; I will heal you. On the third day from now you will go up to the temple of the Lord. ⁶ I will add fifteen years to your life. And I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria. I will defend this city for my sake and for the sake of my servant David.”

3. Hezekiah was not **willing to waste the time he had left.**


 Proverbs 25:1 (NIV) “These are more proverbs of Solomon, copied by the men of Hezekiah king of Judah:”

 2 Chronicles 32:27–30 (NIV) “Hezekiah had very great riches and honor, and he made treasuries for his silver and gold and for his precious stones, spices, shields and all kinds of valuables. ²⁸ He also made buildings to store the harvest of grain, new wine and oil; and he made stalls for various kinds of cattle, and pens for the flocks. ²⁹ He built villages and acquired great numbers of flocks and herds, for God had given him very great riches. ³⁰ It was Hezekiah who blocked the upper outlet of the Gihon spring and channeled the water down to the west side of the City of David. He succeeded in everything he undertook.”


4. Hezekiah was not **a very effective parent.**

The son did a lot of **TERRIBLE** things but **REMEMBERED THE MOST IMPORTANT** thing.


1. Manasseh was not **interested in ruling like his dad did.**

 2 Chronicles 33:1–2 (NIV) “Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem fifty-five years. ² He did evil in the eyes of the Lord, following the detestable practices of the nations the Lord had driven out before the Israelites.”


2. Manasseh was not respectful of the things of God.


 2 Chronicles 33:3–5 (NIV) ³ He rebuilt the high places his father Hezekiah had demolished; he also erected altars to the Baals and made Asherah poles. He bowed down to all the starry hosts and worshiped them. ⁴ He built altars in the temple of the Lord, of which the Lord had said, “My Name will remain in Jerusalem forever.” ⁵ In both courts of the temple of the Lord, he built altars to all the starry hosts.”


3. Manasseh was not a good father at all.

 2 Chronicles 33:6a (NIV) “He sacrificed his sons in the fire in the Valley of Ben Hinnom.


4. Manasseh was not afraid to provoke God to anger.

 2 Chronicles 33:6b (NIV) [He] practiced sorcery, divination and witchcraft, and consulted mediums and spiritists. He did much evil in the eyes of the Lord, provoking him to anger.”

 2 Kings 21:16 (NIV) “Moreover, Manasseh also shed so much innocent blood that he filled Jerusalem from end to end—besides the sin that he had caused Judah to commit, so that they did evil in the eyes of the Lord.”

 2 Chronicles 33:9–11 (NIV) “But Manasseh led Judah and the people of Jerusalem astray, so that they did more evil than the nations the Lord had destroyed before the Israelites. ¹⁰ The Lord spoke to Manasseh and his people, but they paid no attention. ¹¹ So the Lord brought against them the army commanders of the king of Assyria, who took Manasseh prisoner, put a hook in his nose, bound him with bronze shackles and took him to Babylon.”

5. Manasseh was not someone that God gave up on.

 2 Chronicles 33:12–13 (NIV) “In his distress he sought the favor of the Lord his God and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers. ¹³ And when he prayed to him, the Lord was moved by his entreaty and listened to his plea; so he brought him back to Jerusalem and to his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the Lord is God.”

What would you do if you knew you had exactly 15 years left to live? How would you describe your relationship with your parents? Do you want to parent like they did? Are you parenting like they did? What do you think you will be most remembered for? It's not how you start; it's how you finish. How will you finish?

