

WORD

¹⁶Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, "Hear the word of the Lord: ¹⁷Behold, the days are coming, when all that is in your house, and that which your fathers have stored up till this day, shall be carried to Babylon. Nothing shall be left, says the Lord. ¹⁸And some of your own sons, who shall be born to you, shall be taken away, and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon."
¹⁹Then Hezekiah said to Isaiah, "The word of the Lord that you have spoken is good." For he thought, "Why not, if there will be peace and security in my days?"

2 KINGS 20:16-19

(Read also **2 KINGS 20:12-21**.)

Hezekiah, one of the kings of Judah shortly before God's people were exiled, desired to please God with his life. However, Hezekiah viewed success as something that was dependent on his generation only. He didn't have a succession plan for the generations after him. If we are to have true success, we will need to have a good succession plan to empower the next generation of leaders. In this lesson, we will look at three elements a leader needs to have to prepare the next generation to lead.

1 Humility

He said, "What have they seen in your house?" And Hezekiah answered, "They have seen all that is in my house; there is nothing in my storehouses that I did not show them." **2 KINGS 20:15**

Hezekiah was proud of the wealth in his kingdom, and he used the opportunity with Babylonian envoys to show off all they had. However, everything we have is not because of us, and neither does it stop with us. If we are to have a multi-generational perspective of leadership, we will need to know our place and value the generations that will come after us. How have you learned to think beyond your lifetime?

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2 Sacrifice

¹⁷"Behold, the days are coming, when all that is in your house, and that which your fathers have stored up till this day, shall be carried to Babylon. Nothing shall be left, says the Lord. ¹⁸And some of your own sons, who shall be born to you, shall be taken away, and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon." **2 KINGS 20:17,18**

Because of Hezekiah's pride, the generations after him would experience suffering and tragedy. If we are to prepare the next generation to lead, we will have to choose sacrifice and service over selfishness. Why do you think Hezekiah did not care about how his actions would affect the next generation?

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3 Vision

Then Hezekiah said to Isaiah, "The word of the Lord that you have spoken is good." For he thought, "Why not, if there will be peace and security in my days?" **2 KINGS 20:19**

Hezekiah was more concerned about *peace and security* in his days. But what effect would it have on the days after his death? As followers of Christ and as leaders, we don't just lead with a shortsighted plan. We lead with a heart to pass on the gospel to the coming generations. We want them to succeed and to be even better than us. What is your vision? How will the coming generations help fulfill this?

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