

Title: The Choice to Run to God or from God

Passage: Isaiah 36-37

Date: October 12, 2025

1. When things go wrong or you need help, who is the first person you reach out to? How did that kind of trust develop between you?
2. A few weeks ago we met King Ahaz, whose fear drove him to trust idols and foreign powers. This week, we meet his son, Hezekiah, who inherits the kingdom—and the mess left behind. Read 2 Kings 18:1-8. What stands out to you about Hezekiah? How does he compare with his father, Ahaz?
3. In the 14th year of Hezekiah's reign, the Assyrians were advancing toward Jerusalem, conquering city after city in Judah. Read 2 Kings 18:13–16. Imagine the pressure—cities falling, people panicking, leaders demanding action. What do you think was going through Hezekiah's mind? Was his response wise, fearful, or compromising?
4. We often try to manage sin instead of resisting it—hoping compromise will bring peace—but like Hezekiah's tribute, our compromises only empower what enslaves us. Where do you need to stop negotiating with sin?

5. The Assyrians sent a Rabshakeh (rahb-SHAH-keh), a high-ranking military officer, as psychological warfare to turn the people against Hezekiah and against God. Read Isaiah 36 and discuss the Rabshakeh's tactics. What are the modern versions of that same message today?
6. After hearing the Rabshakeh's message, Hezekiah goes into the Temple to pray. Read Isaiah 37:1-7 and 14-20. What stands out to you about his response? What seems to matter most to Hezekiah in his prayer?
7. Read Isaiah 37:30-38. Here we see that God doesn't wage war like the world does (2 Corinthians 10:3-5). He is the Warrior who uses truth, miracles, nature, and heavenly armies to defeat His enemies and save His people. This is also true for spiritual battles: Jesus is the Warrior who dies to defeat sin and death and continues to rescue us by His Spirit. Our strength isn't used to conquer, but to trust—to remain faithful and obedient as God fights for us (See Exodus 15:1-18; Colossians 2:13-15; 1 Corinthians 10:13 for more). How does this impact the way you think about "fighting" temptation? or about recognizing God's "way of escape" from sin?