

Getting Vertical Part 5

2 Chronicles 30 - King Hezekiah

Intro: Today we are in part 5 of our series in 2 Chronicles – Getting Vertical

A) 3 Kings in Judah who were men who sought the Lord in a special way. – Result – Blessed

B) Personally and Professionally – The Kingdom

C) Last week we started looking at Hezekiah

1) Hezekiah stands out the most

He was 25 years old, became King – and God used him to bring Revival to the nation

A) 2 Kings 18 we are told this about Hezekiah that he **trusted the Lord more than any of the other kings before him or after him.**

B) So he stands out as a man who trusted God

1) 2 Kings 18 says he **clung to the Lord – some translations put it this way: He followed hard after God**

C) Total of 11 Chapters in the Bible are dedicated to him

D) We began looking at his story last time – pointed out 3 things he did as soon as he took the throne

#1 Repaired God's house{ His father had closed it down – boarded up – He opened

#2 He challenged the Priests! –

He challenged them to get back to the work of spiritually leading and ministering to the nation.

#3 He reinstated temple worship and sacrifice.

THE RESULT: Revival broke out!

A) People were seeking God with a renewed passion

B) Bringing more sacrifices than the priest could handle –

1) **Passionate worship was taking place**

C) It was a powerful move of God – that continues into Chapter 30

Today we want to consider FIVE marks of Revival that we see in this Chapter! **Read v.1-5**

1st Mark: A renewed appreciation of our Salvation

A) They reinstitute the Passover celebration.

B) The celebration of Passover commemorated Israel's deliverance from the bondage of Egypt.

1) Angel of Death – the sacrifice of the lamb, the blood on the doorpost in the shape of a cross

C) Passover celebrates that fact

1) They were to celebrate this once a year – but they hadn't done it **v.5 in a long time.**

So they are getting back to basics –

A) Passover was one day: 14th day of the 1st month on the Jewish Calendar – Nisan = April { Their yr begins

B) Temple was still boarded up – 2nd month

C) Connected with the feast of unleavened bread – Israel brought out of Egypt – no time – plus sin

1) Feast of unleavened Bread – 7 days

D) Two feast were combined together – 8 day celebration.

So they were Reestablishing their focus on Salvation /redemption

A) Passover is a picture of Calvary – God's lamb given to spare us from death

B) Covered by the blood – Redeemed by the blood

1) Delivered thru the sacrifice

C) Revival is taking place in the hearts of God's people, there is a greater appreciation for the cross

1) Renewed sense in our hearts – He did that for me !

D) Sometimes in our Christian life – it is like sports fans – what have you done for me lately God

1) So much focus on our needs

E) But when revival is breaking out in our hearts – attitude is one of – If sending Jesus to save me was all that you ever did for me – ENOUGH!

2ND MARK: Burden for people, especially the lost!

A) We read in v1 that Hezekiah sent letters to all of Judah AND Israel – inviting them to come celebrate Passover with them. **Read V.6-9**

B) God was doing a special work in their hearts and Hezekiah wanted everyone to enjoy it

1) **No one miss out**

C) When God is doing a work of revival in our hearts

One of the first things to notice –

1) Your burden to see unsaved family members and friends get saved – grows

D) Pray with more passion – Live with more concern

1) **Green tags temporal / Red tags eternal**

E) Jesus: Harvest is ripe – See souls like a field

1) Sheep without a shepherd. Who is lost – who isn't –

People all around us doing crazy things – making horrible decisions – because they are lost

A) No matter what we achieve in life – the #1 reason we are here is to connect with souls – touch hearts

B) **People in all different stages** – hurting / others celebrating and everywhere in between

Reminded again of that fact – this week

A) Left Monday am for Seattle – NW Pastors' conference

B) 3 full 18 hr days of nonstop ministry! –God blessed, thank you for praying

C) But when ever I get asked to share at one of those things – 3 this year – humbled –

1) Serious – these are guys impacting lives – churches

Cities – front lines –

D) My prayer is: God I want to be used to bring a word – Your word

E) One of the speakers couldn't make it – found out when I got there – I was going to share twice as much

So 3 days of teaching – counseling – sharing – many divine appointments – GREAT !

A) Wednesday night – teach at Calvary Seattle –

B) Wednesday afternoon – Call from a pastor in another region – battling – needed prayer and advice

1) Service that night went well - God spoke

Thursday I was at the airport bright and early 6am

A) Flight to Oregon – Visit CC Corvallis – **Church I helped find a pastor for** – See new property

B) From there go to visit a family friend – who is dying of cancer

C) I arrived at the airport 6am – 7:15 board – problem – Bomb in Eugene, airport closed –

1) **Portland – drive 100miles – ok**

D) **Driving – thinking why am I doing this tired – thrashed – but ROB V – really wanted me there**

1) Ok Lord –

E) **So glad I did that** – so blessed – it was rewarding for me – see what God did there.

1) **16yrs ago I envisioned God pouring out His spirit**

Being there got me excited about our building project-

A) Their struggles – Rob and I have same heart – resist encouragement to do capital stewardship

B) Trust God – exciting – I was able to show them the song Mighty to save – Dedication

C) I left there on a high rejoicing – singing in the car: our God is mighty to save –

Arrived in Keizer about 45 minutes later

A) Totally different scene: Sweet dear family

B) **Mom who is 49 years old – dying of cancer**

C) Incredible servant – example of Jesus

1) Two great kids – great unsaved husband

D) Blessing to us!

1) First Children's ministry leader

2) More than that – good friends – true friend to my wife

E) Baby sat my kids – There for us through many of the trials of starting a church

They were All there – for 2 hours we talked, laughed, shared – talked about heaven and new bodies – hope in Jesus

A) I was fine – until I prayed for her. Suddenly I was choked up – weeping – couldn't pray –

B) That rarely happens to me!

C) Get in car – whole different emotions – now I am sobbing – I have got to get to the airport – but I can hardly drive

D) Plane – exhausted – emotionally drained –

1) Arrived home at 11pm – 4 intense days of ministry

Friday am Check email – Great email from this pastor in Africa – someone gave CD's –

A) We sent all the books of the Bible we have –

B) His reply – Rejoicing – thanks for what you do thru our Church all over the world

C) The call from Jeff S. – now I am crying again

That is life – folks – all day all week – series of highs and lows – all connected to the people in our lives

A) All connected to the people we get to touch – the people we get to reach out to / encounter

B) Highs, lows and everything in between

1) THE ANSWER IS JESUS

C) Closer we get to JESUS – more of a heart we get for people

1) The more we want them to experience the Lord

So that was Hezekiah's heart – sends runners out all over Israel – Come celebrate with us

**A) Calling out to those in the North Backslidden
Don't be stiff necked anymore!**

B) Stiff necked – Webster's – Prideful and stubborn

Pigheaded / unyielding / rigid

C) Their necks are called "stiff" because they won't bend to God's will

1) God wants us to be yielded and bending – not stiff but easily turning

D) Not RIGID – but bending, moldable

E) Hard Clay vs clay that is soft – What makes it soft – Water – the word.

So Hezekiah calls them to respond to the Lord – return, don't be stiff necked

A) Here is the Benefit - We get to enter the sanctuary

B) What is the purpose of our surrender ? – Escape Hell – not primarily – first saved all I knew

C) Primarily it is to enter into the Sanctuary

1) Experience God's presence – fellowship – friendship with God

D) Not only that we get to SERVE!

1) We move from being God's enemies – to friends

To vessels –

E) He chooses to use our lives to touch others!

So Hezekiah sends the runners everywhere to call people back to God. –

V.9 Return and receive a bashing ? NO mercy and Grace

In V.10-11 Next we see the response to their invitation: Read v.10-11

A) Some laugh and mock

B) Some humble and receive

C) Reminds us that – the message is our job to get out there – The results are up to God !

1) Some receive/ some don't – we need to make sure that the ones who reject don't discourage us from sharing

V.12 3rd Mark: UNITY – a singleness of heart!

12 Also the hand of God was on Judah to give them singleness of heart to obey the command of the king and the leaders, at the word of the LORD.

Notice: God gave them a singleness of heart to obey God's word. { Something God did –

not a program

- A) This is my prayer for our body – God would give us a singleness of heart to obey His word
- B) Singleness of heart to reach our community!
- C) The Bible is filled with passages that call us to unity.

Psalm 133:1

**“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is
For brethren to dwell together in unity!”**

Romans 15:5-6

“May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, 6 so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.” NIV

Phil 1:27

Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel,

Power when God’s people are united

My prayer is that the Lord would give us a singleness of heart

A) A few weeks ago at the city planning commission meeting – after the vote “**congratulations**”

B) I understand that – but I was a little uncomfortable with it.

1) **See this is not a Rob thing- CCV family thing!**

C) Instead of congratulations to me – PTL for us!

1) **Leadership: Give Rob wisdom – no, give us wisdom**

In fact Rob S. is very comfortable here {Content

A) **Love what is happening – Churches being started
People raised up, sent out**

B) **Youth guys do an excellent Job –**

C) Children's ministry – great

D) Worship – Blessed

E) D/A – great impact

F) School great Job {So much with so little

I am a happy guy – Speak places, I will often say I pastor the best church on the planet

A)I want others to experience that –

B) What will youth ministries be like with real rooms

C) I get tired of meeting people who say – I tried to go to your Church – couldn't deal with the lack of parking

D) So we move forward – I pray Lord give us a singleness of heart

1st Mark: A renewed appreciation of our Salvation

2ND MARK: Burden for the lost!

3rd Unity – Singleness of Heart

4th They clean house Read V.13-14

A) They get rid of all the idols

B) Revival is happening – motivation toward holiness

Get rid of what doesn't belong!

Now the rest of the Chapter gives us God's reaction to what is going on! Read V.15-19

A) The Levites usually assisted the priest in their ministry – but in this case they actually performed the priest duty

B) People didn't have a chance to properly cleanse themselves – so Hezekiah prays

C) God would have grace on all those who would prepare their hearts to seek the Lord

1) God Listened, 2 Chronicles 30:20

“And the LORD listened to Hezekiah and healed the people.”

This story is a great reminder to us that man was not made for the ritual – the ritual was made for man!

A) Sabbath day: day of rest – God made it because man needs it – a day of rest

B) The Sabbath was made for man – not vice versa

1) Day created to bless man – not a burden

C) Passover was made because God knew “ My people are prone to forget”

1) Remind them of their Salvation

D) Ceremonial cleansing to get ready

But the People couldn't prepare for Passover –

A) Prepared their hearts

B) That is what matters to God – Heart

1) “ Heart is far from me – Vain they worship”

Read V. 21-26

5th They didn't want it to end!

A great time of rejoicing – great Joy ! Didn't want it to end! Can't get enough

A) V.26 Great Joy – nothing like this in a long time

2 Chron 30:27

27 Then the priests, the Levites, arose and blessed the people, and their voice was heard; and their prayer came up to His holy dwelling place, to heaven.