1 – **“Set Your House In Order”**

2 Kings 20:1-6

2 - **Background of King Hezekiah**

* One of Judah’s best kings. 2 Kings 18:3-7
* Became King at age 25 and reigned for 29 years from about 727-698 BC instituting many reforms. 2 Chronicles 29:5-11
* Attacked and threatened by Sennacherib, King of Assyria.   
  2 Kings 18:13-37
* Encouraged by Isaiah to trust in God to deliver. 2 Kings 19:6-7
* King Hezekiah’s prayer (2 Kings 19:14-19) and God’s response (vs. 20-35).

3 - **Background of King Hezekiah**

* Afterwards, in 2 Kings 20:1; King Hezekiah became *“mortally ill”* (sick to the point of death) and told by God…

***“Set your house in order, for you shall die and not live.”***

* We all must realize we face an uncertain future.
* How would we react if told you have but just a few days to live?
* What steps would you take to ***“set your house in order”***?

4 - **Don’t wait to be told…**

* We don’t know what tomorrow holds and we’re given no assurances of any type of warning.
  + James 4:19 – *“you are just a vapor…”*
  + Psalms 39:4-5 – *“…let me know how transient I am…”*
  + Psalms 90:10-12 – *“…soon it is gone and we fly away… so teach us to number our days…”*

5 - **Don’t wait to be told…**

* We need to live in a state of preparation.
  + Luke 12:35 – *“****Be dressed in readiness****…”*
  + Matthew 24:42-44 – what if we knew the day of our departure? Would we then *“****be ready****”*?
  + Setting our house in order illustrated in Matthew 25:1-13
  + Jesus will come again when no one knows –   
    Matthew 24:26
    - ***“What sort of people ought you to be…?”*** 2 Peter 3:10

6 - **Setting our house in order must involve earnest prayer.**

* First thing King Hezekiah did (2 Kings 20:2-3): *“He turned his face to the wall, and prayed to the Lord, saying, ‘****Remember*** *now, O Lord, I beseech Thee, how* ***I have walked before Thee in truth and with a whole heart****, and have* ***done what is good in Thy sight****.’”*
* King Hezekiah didn’t pray to a stranger. He prayed “as he had been doing previously” (Daniel 6:10).
* In such a time, could we ask God to remember how we had served Him faithfully with our whole heart and that we did what He asked of us?

7 - **Setting our house in order must involve earnest prayer.**

* The Hebrew writer speaks (Hebrews 4:16) of *“****draw(ing) near with confidence*** *to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help* ***in time of need****.” –* what if we haven’t been serving God with our whole heart?
* In such dire times, we need to remember to *“****cast all your anxiety upon Him****, because* ***He cares*** *for you”* (1 Peter 5:7) and that our prayers and petitions are God’s ***“delight”*** (Proverbs 15:8).
* We have to believe prayer can ***“accomplish much”***(James 5:16; cf., 1:6).

8 - **Setting our house in order often means a new priority.**

* When faced with news like King Hezekiah, many find that what used to be important no longer is – and what hasn’t been a priority to now be one.
* Many things we put off and procrastinated regarding now find themselves at the top of our “to do” list. Why is that?
* The command in Matthew 6:33 is not reserved for those on their proverbial “last lap”.

Examples: Luke 10:40-42; 12:16-21; 14:18ff.

9 - **Setting our house in order means doing all to turn others from sin.**

* Would our preparations include wanting to ensure our family and friends were on the right path?
* The rich man in Luke 16:27-28 wanted to warn his brothers.
* There is a time to warn the wicked (Ezekiel 3:17-21) and a time to restore the one caught in any trespass   
  (Galatians 6:1).
* There is always time to *“reprove, rebuke and exhort with great patience and instruction”* (2 Timothy 4:2)

10 - **Setting our house in order means resolving conflicts with others.**

* It’s common to see people to seek alienated friends and family in situations like King Hezekiah.
* Don’t wait – whether we are in the wrong or the other person. Matthew 5:23-24; Matthew 18:15ff
* Humility is required – Philippians 2:3-4

11 - **Setting our house in order means detaching ourselves from the things of this life.**

* It suddenly hits us that we can’t take it with us. What we couldn’t bear to part with is suddenly inconsequential.
* There is no lasting value in the things of this life.   
  2 Peter 3:10-13; Ecclesiastes 2:18-20
* Are we laying up treasure in heaven or earth?   
  Matthew 6:19-24

12 - **Setting our house in order should mean being *“hard pressed”.***

* Philippians 1:21-26 – between ***“having the desire to depart and be with Christ”*** or to ***“remain on in the flesh… for your sake”.***
* No selfish ambitions for wanting to remain.
* Having set his house in order, he could confidently say, *“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness…”* (2 Timothy 4:6-8)

13 - **Setting our house in order must include making things right with God**

* How sad to face such a crisis with sin separating us from God and that it takes news such as King Hezekiah received to realize the need for reconciliation with God.
* Paul begs us to be “***reconciled to God***” 2 Corinthians 5:20.
* Don’t put off honest self examination. 2 Corinthians 13:5;   
  1 Thessalonians 2:4

14 - **Now is the time to be setting our house in order.**

* Today is the day! Hebrews 3:12-15
* There is an urgency to getting our house in order. Acts 22:16
* Acts 16:33; 8:36
* Setting our house in order is not about wills, insurance and estates but about being ready to meet our God.