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"STATESMAN GRANDSTANDING"

Isaiah 39

INTRODUCTION:

To Grandstand means to put more show into a play than is necessary -- to draw applause from the grandstand. Hence it is done to draw applause or make an impression.

This is often a key delight of the athletic field. The player will make a difficult play look easy. A player sometimes risk a close play.

(Human nature) is expressed in this way through other channels. In Politics -- a man plays to the crowd and forgets the rules of honesty.

Self Grandeur notes the same thing. Displaying ones eminence, pride rules in all actions. *The Pride of A Peacock is the glory of Eod - Wm. Blake*

Pride is the Master sin of the Devil - Ed. Chapin
Paul said the same thing in Eph. 2:9. "Not of works, lest any man should boast".

If we could save ourselves by our own good works -- grandstanding - it would not have been necessary for Christ to have died, and we would have reason to boast of what we had done. *Daniel Defoe - "Pride is the First peer AND president of Hell!"*

Worthy the Lamb enthroned on high, to be exalted thus!

Worthy the Lamb who died, we cry,

For He was slain for us,

Jesus is worthy to receive

Honor and power divine:

And blessings more than we can give,

Be, Lord, for ever Thine.

G. M. Landis

Isa. 38 - King at point of death - 15 years given.

Isa. 39 - King Grandstands before visitors from Babylon.

Outline:

- I. Sick Visit Made - Verse 1-2.
- II. Searching Question - Verse 3-4.
- III. Specific Word - Verse 5-8.

I. Sick Visit Made - Verse 1-2.

Verse 1 - Merodach - Heard he had been sick.

Sent - 1. Letters.

2. Gifts.

3. Curiosity - 2 Chron. 32:31 - Wonder of the sun dial.

4. Additional Reason - Get rid of Assyrian yoke.

This was a sick visit. Some friend of yours is ill you send them a card or letter. Often you send a gift of flowers, fruit, or candy. Some go to investigate the illness - wonder - curiosity - want to know what the disease is and some of the details. There are additional reasons as was the case of the Babylonians. Some Preachers run around to attend the sick in another flock with the hope of sheep stealing. The little lamb will say in a critical fashion my Preacher did not visit me but Brother so and so came three times. The chances are the little lambs Pastor did not know of his illness.

This is one of the ministries committed to the church -- care for the sick - visit those in afflictions, writer of James says.

Refreshing to the sick to know that a visit is the result of Christian love and concern. Curiosity visitors are of little comfort to the physically sick. However, a sincere visit bathed in prayer is following the footsteps of Jesus - He went about doing good.

True Christians rejoice with friends, neighbors, fellow church members upon deliverance from the sick bed. A recovery from sickness is a time to praise God.

King of Babylon taking advantage of the troubled times.

Merodach -- "to rebel" - the rebel.

Founder of Babylon or Babel - Nimrod - Is reproduced in Merodach.

Whole name - Merodach - Baladan - "A rebel - Not Lord." Way Jews understood.

Founder of confusion - Nimrod - Gen. 11:9 - Babel - confusion.

Civil - religious - church - city - Babel - (Not) Gate to God but confusion.

Sick Visit - 1. Letters

2. Gifts

3. Sun Dial - 2 Chr. 32:31. The Chaldean astronomers such a fact would be especially interesting. Dial having been invented in Babylon. (Curocity) - like people visit unusual places -- Hill in Fla. Where you drive down the hill and turn off the motor - the car rolls back up the hill unassisted!

4. Additional reason - not because Hezekiah was sick - or pious - but prosperous! Coveted an alliance to stop threat of Assyria to Babylon. Get power to aid in war. He had heard of the 185,000 soldiers dying in one night.

Verse 2 - Grandstand Play - "Glad"

King had promised to walk softly - 38:15.

"Glad" - harkened to them - listened to them. Hard to keep the spirit humble in presence of great advancement. Good man - hard to keep his heart from being lifted up. One miracle after another. Pride snared him.

Paul had a thorn - kept from being lifted up.

Jesus - Devil took to high mt.

David - Tried in 1 Chr. 21:1-8. And (Satan) stood up Against Israel, AND provoked David To Number Israel.

Pressure - Peter just decided to do his best and pride took control.

Babylon was just a rising power.

Hezekiah on Delilah's knee - flattered by gifts - letters. He had been strong in religion, faith, and wisdom.

Woman Dancer Drove - Car broke - Ask Husband - not time
onto work - came home both working! How? - Bachelor
arrives at work - Tinker with fixed - offered pay? not
take money - What now? Said to me a meal a Reba a
Messengers congratulate him on his recovery from his illness. *Cabe! What say?*

He invites them to see his house and parades the strength of his dominions. *I'm not Betty Crocker*

2 K. 20:12-13. Husband "This is to use my giving you a check, my dear, my bank account is overdrawn"
wife: "well, give me one, anyway, & make it for \$500. I want to pull it out of my hand bag"

Vanity - pride - forgot the little service of his armoury and his treasures. *with my Hankerschieff at the club!!*

If they were to make a war alliance then he would show his arms.

Precious things - new weapons - power.

Silver and Gold - From Assyrian Camp 33:4
2 Chr. 32:23, 27-29.
Christian apostles lacked this altogether
Acts 3.

Spices and Precious Ointment - Used anointing Kings, Priest.

Armour - Implements of war. Nothing or no restrictions.

"See how rich and increased with goods I am, and have need of nothing". Grandstand.

Did these visitors know the real value of these treasures? Grand display of his wealth.

"Pearls before swine".

Russian - display secrets of power - farms - industry - no nation as U. S. enjoys such luxuries.

Missed opportunity of honoring God and witnessing to these people - pagan neighbors.

Men today miss out - great weakness to value self by civil respect - by children of the world.

Call into account the working of your pride. "Pride goeth before destruction,
And AN haughty spirit before A FALL" prov. 16:18

II. Searching Question - Verse 3-4

Verse 3 - Prophet - What did they say?

Where did they come from?

What did they see?

Prophet comes unsent for to rebuke the King.

2 Sam. 12:1-12. Sam - came before the people - Made A King - I am old & grey-headed - The Lord
Your God WAS your King -

1 Sam. 24:11.

I Kings 12:22. Word of The Lord - Shem-Ai' AĦ the Man of God - Speak - Rehoboam -
 Son of Solomon - Ye shall Not fight Against your Brethren -
 I Kings 13:2. Man of God came with Word of God to Jeroboam -
 2 Chron. 12:5.

No respect of persons.

What did they say? Prophet interested in Hezekiah. Not want him rely upon "arm of flesh" Babylon - but on the Lord.

Warn the King of danger - danger of these foreign strangers coming into the city of David.

Questions - force a confession.

Honour paid him did not impress the prophet - "The men are come all the way from Babylon to see me".

Isaiah had heard about the visit and desired Hezekiah confess. The King told him the truth - He was not ashamed - glories in it.

These idolatrous enemies of God - forbidden to make alliance with - He had received with gladness. Depend on Babylon, not on God!

King had not made the best of their visit.

Verse 4 // What have they seen in Thine house? //

Your question - my question - young people - young married - what?

Take this text out of its contents and put the plain question in reference to your house.

Would strangers visiting your home know that you were a Christian or pagan?

Visitors get an impression - how would a trip, unexpectedly by guests from a far country impress folks?

Now be truthful, what would they see in your house - just to help your memory - in the living room, what kind of pictures are on the wall and the type of magazines on the table? Would they see cheap storied magazines with half dressed women? Would a Bible be in view?

In the den would they see a bar? You get the idea -- move on to the kitchen, would beer appear in the ice box?

Adam - Paradise was home - Garden - God came to visit - found Sin - Joy gone - God often has a great share in The little home - love of God - Home is sweet.

Boss in Home - farmer - determined find a community who were Boss in each home - Hitch
Horses Wagon - Number chickens, ? Who was Boss wife - Husband. Both admit Wife - give chickens
Finally - Admit Husband Boss - all right - which horse black or grey? Husband - Black!
Just then wife called next room conf - Husband returned wanted to take grey horse - No you want
said of farm you also get a chicken!

Look in your medicine cabinet - are you depending upon drugs for your kicks in
life?

You would say to me well but some of these things are acceptable and even
endorsed by the Chamber of Commerce!

Then I place before you this question. Are they endorsed by Jesus? He knows
what is in your home! Hosea - God opens the door - Mother children - Mother & World
Zackheus - Jews visited, unbeliever, Dishonest - All changed.

Would visitors be confronted with arguments, and unnecessary quarrels.

What have they seen in thy house? Joshua - As for me & my house we will serve the Lord.

III. Specific Word - Verse 5-8.

Verse 5 - Hear the word of the Lord - King was not to listen for man's word - or voice
of custom - crowd.

King - boasts of his treasures.

Complacency - relying upon their power.

Visitors may prove to be thieves.

Answer to pride - hear - word - specific.

ed. 3/1/2
Gather the people together men, women, children, stranger that they may hear the word of the Lord

Verse 6 - Specific news of his house.

Gold you are proud of will be carried away to Babylon. Literally - Day approaching.

This was result of his folly.

We miss great opportunities in our life.

A time of bearing witness for God, but we are more interested in personal desires.

Your Motto - "For Christ's Sake".

Hezekiah - heard of the ruin of his seed and successors in his kingdom.

Verse 7 - "Unborn Sons" - At that time - Eunuchs in Babylon - Manasseh - Amariah - their
seed.

Daniel 1:2-3. (Descendants) - Fulfilled.

History tells of the fulfillment of this prophecy. Punishment did not fall on the
King personally. But a part went to his seed.

The nation was corrupt with pride and apostasy. 120 years afterwards this was carried out. Jews were carried to Babylon, riches carried away.

We cannot see all that is come - but we know of judgment upon vanity, complacency.

Those with an acquaintance who is irreligious and godless - it would do well for you to repent and have no happy relations with Babylon, another of harlots, and of idolatries.

Verse 8 - "Good is the word of the Lord".

At least Hezekiah is an example to us in the way we should repent and receive God's word reproving our sins.

Prophet had said "Behold the days will come -- nothing left". God mercifully spared the King this tragedy, but Judah continued her sinful way and finally it became a grim reality.

It can happen here in America. It is not far fetched to say with Toynbee the historian of 21 world civilizations - 19 have fallen and they all committed suicide - died within. Luxurious living, pagan in religious matters, taxes soared, corruption in public life - hollow shell.

The only thing that can save us is Repentance and genuine Christian living. Righteousness is absolutely necessary. This must begin with you!

Word of God is good in that sin is made to be sin. True spiritual life was revealed.

Word of God is good if we receive the rebuke of the word.

Word of God is good if men see their sins and discover the remedy.

History repeats itself - today. Have we not received many precious things of truth?

Have we not looked upon wealth as our very own -- "I am rich and increased in goods". Using it as a means of self-exaltation.

Church - Laodicea - proud - false hope - I will spew the out.

Samson - Philistines not interested in his true wealth - physical power.

Word of God is good if you cease grandstanding and play the game of life by the rules of truth.

The Pharisees were great at play acting - Jesus condemned.

If King Hezekiah instead of showing his gold and silver had given them the account of his marvellous healing, and the miracle of the shadow going back 10 degrees, he might have been the means of bringing them to the knowledge of the true God who made Heaven and earth.

Peace - life time.

Charles Herbert - His daughter trip London - Boat - Thames - High Tide
looked impossible boat get under arch of Westminster Bridge.
Boat had Funnel on top - like smoke stack,
Boatman pulled a bar, lowered the funnel & made it stoop -
"The boat would have smashed if the Funnel had not stooped" - Daughter,
That is how pride goes before the fall -
People think so much of themselves they won't stoop -
When the tide is high - when they are successful -
When tide is low - no danger -