

A Desperate Prayer

Isaiah 38

3.19.2023

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Into the Deep

Reflect

Outline: Recap

Realize

Points to Ponder

Respond

Questions to draw out understanding.

REFLECT

Prayer has often been compared to a friendly conversation with a loving God. While this approach is fruitful and important in the life of a believer, prayer is also, by definition, a cry for help when all seems lost. In Isaiah 38, we find a prideful ruler confronted by insurmountable odds crying out to God for help. May we use his example to fuel the embers of our prayer life in a message entitled A Desperate Prayer.

REALIZE

1. Sickness will call you to prayer

- **Scripture Reference;** Isaiah 38:1a
- **Questions for Reflection**
 - Can you think of a time when you prayed out of desperation? What did you pray for and did God answer that prayer?

2. Set Your house in order

- **Scripture Reference;** Isaiah 38:1b-8
- **Questions for Reflection**
 - Is there something in your life that God withheld from you for a period of time? How hard was it for you to remain faithful while you were waiting for the Lord to answer your prayers?

3. Maybe

- **Scripture Reference;** Isaiah 38:9-22
- **Questions for reflection**
 - Why is biblical perspective so important for us day to day? What are some ways you can get daily perspective deposits into your prayer life?

4. Remember Jesus' Words

- **Questions for reflection**
 - Out of the seven last statements of Jesus, which one stood out to you the most? Why?

Optional Follow-up Questions:

- What makes you say that?
- How do you feel about that?
- How would you explain your answer to a non-Christian friend or neighbor?
- Why did God design it to work that way? Why not just do (whatever else) instead?
- What would you say to someone who disagrees with that?
- Why do we really have to do it like that? Why can't we just go (some other route) instead?