

Empty Cupboards
Isaiah 39
Pastor Phil Winfield
January 10, 2010

Shocking verse: So Hezekiah said to Isaiah, "The word of the LORD which you have spoken *is* good!" For he said, "At least there will be peace and truth in my days."

Why were the future generations going to find the cupboard empty in Hezekiah's day?

- There was problem of **pride** (verse 2)
 - *2 Chronicles 32:24-25 In those days Hezekiah was sick and near death, and he prayed to the LORD; and He spoke to him and gave him a sign.²⁵ But Hezekiah did not repay according to the favor shown him, for his heart was lifted up; therefore wrath was looming over him and over Judah and Jerusalem.*
- There was the propensity for **presumption** (verse 2, 4) 2 Chronicles 32:27-32 -
 - *Psalms 19:13 Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins; Let them not have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, And I shall be innocent of great transgression.*
- There was the symptom of **short-sightedness** (verses 3, 5-7)
 - *Ephesians 5:15-17 See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise,¹⁶ redeeming the time, because the days are evil.¹⁷ Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.*
- There was the sin of **self-centeredness** (verse 8)

Very pertinent questions for this generation:

- 1) Am I leaving anything of **value** to the next generation?
 - a) Am I giving them a blessing or I am **giving them the bill**?
 - b) Am I showing them frugality or am I showing them **foolishness**?
 - c) Do I demonstrate **responsibility** or irresponsibility?
- 2) Am I leaving any **values** to the next generation?
 - a) Am I leaving the cupboard bare of **humility**?
 - b) Am I leaving the cupboard bare of **integrity**?
 - c) Am I leaving the cupboard bare of **sagacity**? (Ephesians 5:15-17 above)
 - i) What is the wise thing in light of **my past history**?
 - ii) What is the wise thing in light of **my present circumstances**?
 - iii) What is the wise thing in light of **my children's future**?
 - d) Am I leaving the cupboard bare of **spirituality**?
 - i) Are you a believer?
 - ii) Does your family know it by your life?
 - iii) Do your coworkers and neighbors know it by your life?

The Bridge Builder

An old man, going a lone highway,
Came at the evening, cold and gray,
To chasm, vast and deep and wide,
Through which was flowing a sullen tide.
The old man crossed in the twilight dim;
The sullen stream had no fears for him;
But he turned when safe on the other
side
And built a bridge to span the tide.

"Old man," said a fellow pilgrim near,
"You are wasting strength with building
here;
Your journey will end with the ending day;
You never again must pass this way;
You have crossed the chasm, deep and

wide --
Why build you the bridge at the
eventide?"

The builder lifted his old gray head:
"Good friend, in the path I have come," he
said,
"There followeth after me today
A youth whose feet must pass this way.
This chasm that has been naught to me
To that fair-haired youth may a pit-fall
be,
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim;
**Good friend, I am building the bridge
for him.**"

Will Allen Dromgoole