

We're going back in our series that we just started last week. We're calling paying ransoms and making deals Making deals and our title today is don't Make deals with the devil there Is out there in this world in which we live in that the Bible tells us about a force All right He's the power behind the throne a lot of the evil that we see in the world. All right He fell from heaven and when he fell he took a third of the angels with him And they went from being angels in heaven to fallen angels upon the earth also aka known as demons so I want to go back in the Old Testament a Story about a king by the name of Hezekiah and a story found in 2nd Kings, we're going to look in 2nd Kings 18 and we're going to Cover some ground there and then wrap up in 2nd Kings 19 the next chapter and I want to begin by reading Three verses this morning in this topic of don't make deals with the devil from 2nd Kings 18 begin with verse 5 and I'm going to read down through verse 7 and I Know sometimes preachers when they get in the Old Testament. One of the things they're leery of Is some of these names that you get to pronounce? All right, or make a vain attempt So I'll do the best I can at messing it up. All right Then my wife will correct me and that's what I got her here for. All right, so anyway So we're gonna we're gonna run into a few a few dandies before we're done. All right 2nd Kings 18 He Hezekiah Trusted in Lord God of Israel so that after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah Nor who were before him for he held fast to the Lord He did not deport depart from following him but kept his commandments which the Lord had commanded Moses the Lord was with him. He prospered wherever he went and He rebelled against the king

of Assyria and did not serve him and that is what leads up To this problem in this story this morning. Let's pray God as we open your word

Lead and guide us into all truth for your word is forever Established in heaven. It's there to remind us of a foe that we have how that he has Mouthpieces out there that you remind us in your word that we don't wrestle. We don't battle against flesh and blood Individuals but we wrestle against principalities and powers and rulers of the darkness of this world and spiritual wickedness and high places Lord help us to remember who our foe is. It's not a human it is spiritual and we when we come together It's such a wonderful reminder of this that we look not on the things which are temporal but the things which are eternal So help us today as we look at your word and learn ways that we can fight against the devices of the devil in Jesus name, I pray a Man now

Before the temptation in the example of This offer that's made here to a king Hezekiah I wanted to point out about this man that we start off reading about him Like I just read and I mean this guy talk about a write-up if God says this about you. Oh, man, I mean Look, he he says he held on to the Lord. Oh, we need to do that He says here. He did not depart from following him You know, there's a lot of people who aren't in church today who have departed from the Lord There's a lot of people the Bible warns us all we like sheep have gone astray So all of us are guilty of these things. I live in glass house. You live in glass house. All right notice But kept his commandment kept the word kept in the word obeyed the word and then noticed the Lord was

with him. All right Do we want the Lord with us? I hope we do and notice he prospered him wherever he went But notice now because he was with the Lord Because he followed him he's going to have opposition He's going to have opposition and in this opposition the devil's mouthpiece in our story this morning is the king of Assyria All right, notice he would not serve him. You can't serve God and serve the devil. You got to make a choice I share with you that great theologian Bob Dylan said you got to serve somebody may be the devil It might be the Lord, but you're going to have to serve somebody he decided who he was going to serve He decided he was going to serve the Lord and we see about this man Hezekiah that he's the best there was the best there ever will be you know, I mean so

When you come to the Lord's side when you get saved your problems don't go away they get magnified Because you've chosen a team now you didn't realize before you were on the devil's side now You're on the Lord's side. So he's going to come after you and we're going to see this morning He comes after us in a lot of different ways intimidation Confrontation, you know fear ridicule terrorism all of these things All right, they're just tools that he uses to get us and our focus off the Lord Okay now I want to show you some verses here in the Bible that I've compiled just a few verses that remind us of the devices of the devil Paul said in 2nd Corinthians leave Satan should take advantage of us for we are not ignorant of his devices All right, that is at the heart. I want to talk about his devices some of those devices today the Ephesians 6 11 says put on the harm whole armor of God that you may be able to Stand against the schemes

of the devil notice by the Bible says you're going to have to take a stand when you take a stand, all right, he's going to come after you and notice Ephesians 4 27 and give no Opportunity to the devil don't tempt the devil to tempt you. All right Don't tempt the devil to tempt you also Isaiah 32 verse 7 also here reminded of the schemes He's got a lot of aliases, you know, I can remember as a kid going up back in the old days They would have wanted posters in the post office All right, and some of those bad dudes up there would have a bunch of aliases, you know They might be this guy here and this guy there Well, the devil's got a bunch of aliases and one of them is he's a schemer Notice the schemes of the schemer are evil. He devises wicked plans to destroy the poor with lying words even when the needy speak Excuse me speaks Justice so the Bible warns of him now. There is a book By a man by the name of sins zoo. All right. He was an ancient Chinese Military man and in his manual called the art of war. I Quote knowing the enemy enables you to take the offensive knowing yourself Alright enables you to stand on the defensive. All right, we've got a we got to know him, but we better know ourself We better know what we're going up against So the first point I want to make here this morning up here on the screen is the devil's advocate We're in we're talking about paying ransoms. We're talking about again making deals Here comes the devil. All right. I remember there was a show back. I guess it's back on TV now It is back on TV now called let's make a deal. We used to be Monty Hall. All right, let's make a deal Well here we have the devil entering into Hezekiah's world All right, and he's wanting to make a deal and that's the way the

devil again operates All right, notice in the 14th. We've read about it. What a great man. This guy was King Hezekiah Notice in the 14th year of King Hezekiah Sennacherib a rib all right king of Assyria came up against all the fortified cities of Judah and Took them. All right. Here's the enemy. He's closed in and he's taken these cities Okay. Now I want to tell you something about the Assyrian army at that time This is what Hezekiah was up against. All right, they had not lost a battle in 150 years Can you imagine having a track record like that? That's kind of like the Kansas City Chiefs, you know it I mean 150 years they had not lost a battle. But here was one thing about them. They were known for They were known for their brutality All right, you know back then the Kings had when they would defeat a group They would take their leaders and put a ring through their nose They would tie that ring To a chain and tie that chain to the ring of the other one of the other soldier leaders of the group and then the next one and they would march them through the Back in Assyria when they brought him home to show this is what happens when you mess with the Assyrian army And I want you to see what their calling card for the Assyrian army was I tell you what it was It was a stack or it was a pile of skulls All right, you would see that you'd say I know who's been here them no good Assyrians Now you talk about Intimidation you talk about fear here is what King Hezekiah is dealing with All right. This is how the enemy works. He wants to scare us Did he scare a lot of people with kovat? Yes. Will he scare people again with kovat? Yes, what did Satan tell Job? He said man will do anything for his life He'll do anything All right Some will even sell their soul

to hold on to the life that they got to let go of anyway So he will use intimidation, but I want you to see what this good king Tried to do which was a key mistake Notice back in our text in verse 14 and again I share this because of what he's facing then Hezekiah king of Judah sent to the king of Assyria at Lachish Saying I have done wrong Turn away from me. No words. I've seen that sack. I've heard your your your reputation has preceded itself Notice whatever you impose on me. I'll pay. All right. In other words, they call it paying tribute. All right All right, notice and the king of Assyria. Okay, you're coming to your senses there Hezekiah You understand what you're dealing with. We don't lose wars. We don't lose battles All right, so I'll tell you what I want from you. I want 300 talents of silver and 30 talents of gold now where in the world is he going to get that from now We'll see that in just a minute But this little story here paying tribute reminds me of how the Mafia is famous for working They show up at your residence there at your business and say hey You need protect to be protected. You need to pay some protection money Now they will try to and of course, you know what they're doing They will try to convince you that you need protection from others out there But who you need protection from is from them themselves All right, or they'll take you on one of those one-way trips. All right that you won't come back from Well, basically that's what's going on here. So in order to appease This army and of the Assyrians and this king I want you to note want you to note here in the very next verse in verse 15 notice what he does So Hezekiah gave him all the silver that was found in the house of the Lord imagine if and notice let me go

on here and And all in in the treasuries of the king's house and at that time Hezekiah stripped the gold from the doors of the temple of the Lord from the pillars which Hezekiah king of Judah had overlaid and gave it to the king of Assyria Can you imagine like as a church?

We just start imagine if we had gold-plated offering plates We had gold-plated or silver-plated again Communion deals that we use and we give them over to the enemy All right, you want this you you take it you just leave us alone. You don't hurt us. You don't harm us He's trying to compromise and one of the things you can't do when it comes to dealing with the devil You can't compromise There's an old story and you've probably heard it before it's been around a long time about a man who went out bear hunting All right. He decided he wanted a winner was coming on and he decided he wanted a bear skin coat So he went out to try to find a bear to shoot and he came upon a bear out in the forest And he took aim to raise his gun up to shoot that bear and that bear said the bear talked Then the bear said let's sit down and talk about this surely, there's a way we can come to a compromise. All right, the bear said listen You're looking for a fur coat, right?

Yeah, that's right. The hunter said well the bear said well, I'm all I'm looking for is a warm meal So let's talk it over. All right So they talked it over they met the hunter laid down his gun All right And the bear got him a warm meal and the hunter got him a fur coat inside the stomach of the bear All right, and that's the way the devil operates All right, we lose when we try to compromise with sin We lose when we try to deal with the devil

it will consume us Think about there's always a first time There's the first time to get hooked on drugs. There's a first time to get hooked on booze There's the first time to get hooked on pornography. There's the first time to get hooked on whatever There's always a first time. All right, so you think I like I've shared many times before I thought I could handle it All right. I thought I could handle it. He thought he could pay off this army. They would go leave him alone Now notice where he got this idea from in 2nd Kings 16 and verse 8 All right. The Bible tells us about his father Ahaz

History has a way of repeating itself he did the same thing a hash took the silver and gold that was found in the house of the Lord and the treasures of the king's house and Sent it as a present to the king of Assyria This king of Assyria come knocking on his father's door and now several years later Here he is knock in other words. The devil ain't gonna stop knocking. He's not going to stop Coming after us. All right, and when it comes to the enemy, all right, the more you feed him the fatter he gets Okay, the bear always comes back for another meal You know, we're in this sermon series. We're talking about paying ransom and making deals. There was a famous billionaire by the name of Jay Paul Getty made his money in oil. All right, and in 1973 his grandson Was kidnapped.

All right over in a foreign country I believe is over in Rome and he they got a ransom note All right, they wanted the kidnappers wanted 2.9 million dollars to give This family back that that boy who was 16 years old and I want you to see what Jay Paul Getty All right What he said Jay Paul Getty refused to pay the ransom

famously Proclaiming if I pay for if I pay one penny now, I will have 14 kidnapped grandchildren All right, in other words like our story today. He's going to keep coming back for more You're never going to satisfy his demands He's going if you make a compromise with you, you're going to keep going back and that's why we have things like Addictions and we have problems you keep coming back for more and for more when we compromise with the world whether it's biblically doctrine or in our moral morals or our relationships it always brings disastrous consequences, which leads me to a Second point here. I want to share with you this morning and that's not only let's make a deal But the devil's attack scare tactics All right It's not enough. All right that there's the calling card that we showed you the picture of there's not only their Reputation of what they do to the leaders once they defeat them in war But notice in verse 17 then the king of Assyria sent a great army against Jerusalem now. He paid him off Why is he coming back? never satisfied Never satisfied notice to King Hezekiah sent this army and went up and came to Jerusalem then King then Rabba-shakeh Said to them now to Hezekiah thus says the great king the king of Assyria What confidence is this in which you trust in other words? Who do you think you are Hezekiah? You think you notice you speak of having plans and power for war, but they are mere words In whom do you trust that you rebel against me now? I'm going to tell you something That is a question that we all have to ask ourselves. Who do we trust? When our backs up against the wall, who do we trust if we're laying in a hospital bed and we're facing surgery Or we're facing life-and-death issues. Who do we

trust if we're having marriage issues? If we're having problem with a wayward child, whatever the case may be Who do we trust will have people in our lives who will whisper things in our ears and give us again? Information. All right, that's not coming from the Lord It's coming from the devil All right, and a lot of them are just pawns like this man just a pawn in the devil's hands And here's the classic example of how the devil operates. Okay, this harkens back to David and Goliath Remember David and Goliath the story here was this young shepherd boy facing this large tall giant of a man All right, and all he had was what a slingshot Basically, that's all that he had And he shook his fist He shook his fist All right at David and the whole nation of Israel and said you can't stop me You can't beat me. You can't defeat me. All right, and that's how he works his confidence his Intimidation. All right, your big brother can't help you. All right, your big brother can't help you In fact in our story here, and I'm not going to take time to turn to it He brings up Egypt who was an ally we're supposed to be an ally of Israel Egypt at that time was an ally of Israel. All right, and he said to them They ain't gonna be able to help you why we've already beat them Okay, so I want you to see something up here on the screen point number one underneath this idea of the his Scare tactics is the devil always tries to magnify our weaknesses He wants you to think I Can't do this and he's right Remember what Paul said when I'm weak then I'm strong because I'm relying on you. I'm not relying on myself. I Can't rely on the flesh Notice, but if you say to me, here's this here's this intimidation We trust in the Lord our God Is it not he whose

high places and whose altars Hezekiah has taken away and said to Judah in Jerusalem You shall worship before this altar in Jerusalem. What are the things? if

You read the Old Testament Kings There was one simple Platform that they had that made him a good king or a bad king Did they remove the idols from the land? Did they get rid of the high places? It reminds me I saw in the news this past week Oh they were some of you know good Christian people and I applaud them for what they they were over marching over at Pittsburgh at the Planned Parenthood building over there. All right in Planned Parenthood would say oh, we're just here to help women Well, yeah, they they might hand some birth control pills out and so on and so forth But they're here to kill your baby They're an altar where sacrifices are made and that's what was going on then and is what's going on now All right It's a key point of the election in November again these sacrificial altars We want them to continue. Don't you dare take them out of the state you bring them back in Will we want you to vote them back in bring them back in so we can walk and they never complete the sentence We want the right to choose Choose what to murder our children Okay, that's that's the bottom line. So here he is now just think about what he's saying here He's saying hezekiah is no good. We just read He's the best I ever had He's not gonna lie to you All right, it's hard to find good politicians. It's hard to find good leaders today But we've already read his bio. This is a good guy now who's telling him this a nonsense the devil The devil, you know, it's amazing. We live in a day and age unfortunately where we have so much social media We have

people literally setting in houses and sending out stuff on the internet and people. Well, what do they have to say? Well, I'm god. Yeah, that sounds good. I'm going to do that. I'm going to follow them All right. It's like the Garden of Eden all over again. All right He says to Eve there, you know God's holding out on you. All right, but remember Again, like King Hezekiah here the Lord had prospered him because he trusted in the Lord now Look with me if you would in verse 23 the next verse Now therefore I urge you give a pledge to my master the king of Assyria in other words bow down To the devil's advocate bow down to the devil and I will give you 2,000 horses, but notice the sarcasm If you're able on your part to put riders on them Again, he's saying Look at your army.

It's pathetic like you He's speaking to the people. He's saying you can't whip us You can't defeat us. You can't beat us if you had the horses. You ain't got enough men to ride him anyway Okay, so here he is. He's saying the Egyptians can't help you. The Lord's not on your side And your army's too small So what happens the devil taunts us and I want to remind you of a verse in first John chapter 4 and verse 4 ye are of God little children and have overcome them because Greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world Who is he that is in in the world? It's the devil. Who is he that's in you? It's the Holy Spirit remind remind us Lord of that and then notice also a second thing I want to put up here on the screen is the devil lies to try to distort the Lord's Word notice Have I now come up without the Lord against this place to destroy it? The Lord said to me go up against this land and destroy it here now Understand what's

going on here. Here's the devil saying he's speaking for the Lord Have you ever had somebody come up to you and say the Lord told me to tell you this? We had a lady that ran through our church several years ago. It's probably been 25 years ago and What did she do? Well, she went to several key people in the church and said the Lord told me To tell you to loan me some money All right to loan me some money and she hoodwinked several people All right, but she would always add this little thing, but don't tell my husband about it Okay Okay Now I'm gonna tell you what just because you know Just because people come on the scene and say the Lord told me to tell you this Don't take them at face value Alright, don't get oh, well, they said the Lord told him so I don't think I got I know I got to believe it I know that I've got to accept it absolutely not the devil was a liar from the beginning and All he's looking for as he has in this story is a mouthpiece Somebody to speak through which brings me to a third point here this morning and that is the third thing I want to share is the devil's approach and Boy, he's did this to a lot of churches divide and conquer Get God's people to fight amongst themselves to get in disagreements over Nonsense that has nothing to do with anything All right Things that are important building projects things that don't have anything to do with the Lord's work With winning people to Christ with having being the family of God notice here the story then Rabba Sheke Stood and called with a loud voice in Hebrew and spoke saying hear the word of the great King the king of Assyria Like he's the king of the world Thus says the king do not let Hezekiah deceive you For he shall not be able to deliver you from his hand All

right, nor let Hezekiah make you trust in the Lord saying the Lord will surely deliver us This city shall not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria Do not listen to Hezekiah for thus says the king of Assyria Make peace with me You know, there's a lot of people right now Won't darken the dirt Won't serve the Lord docking the door of a church will not get involved because they've made peace with the devil All right, they've made peace. See here. Here he is coming against him and he's not there to inform him. He's there to Influence them. All right again. Remember King Hezekiah Who he's speaking against we've already read what a great person what a great king He was and here's this man coming and it sounds like a campaign speech Let me tell you what I'm going to do for you. All right Let me tell you what I'm but the facts say you didn't do that before and you ain't going to do it now All right. So again, here's the question. We continually must answer. Who are we going to trust? are we going to trust the Lord are we going to trust the world because the world wants to divide and Conquer now. I want to show you something In how the devil works because there is a parallel account of this story in other words this story is told in the book of Isaiah the same story and I want you to see and add this to the Equation that Isaiah shares about his intimidation in Isaiah 36 and verse 12 and she can't read Chiefs of staff replied. Do you think my master sent this message only to you and your master? He wants all the people to hear for when we put this city under siege that is when we've got it surrounded They will be so hungry and thirsty. They'll eat their own dung and drink their own urine Yes, that's in the Bible

You Now you think about Here's the devil talking You're gonna get so dead. They would come in and surround the city. Nothing would come in Nothing would go out because you're trapped, you know I'm almost you humored many times how these people these doomsday Preppers will go and they'll build these silos and the underground bunkers and all this stuff and they'll store stuff I remember it were going on 25 years ago with the y2k deal Remember that like they're going to survive like we're going to survive if an atomic bomb is dropped in this country You might survive a week All right.

Oh I've got I've got my own garden out here and all this stuff and all this stuff you think you're going to survive When he puts it under siege, that's what he's saying here. No, you'll be so desperate That will be your lunch and that will be your drink. All right, that's how he works He wants to shock and terrorize people. He's doing it right now He's doing it against Israel, all right So that brings me to a fourth thing this morning a fourth thing the devil's appeal Here is a master at a false peace treaty He says make peace with me notice again make peace with me By a present and come out to me. Here's the devil. Come on. Make peace with me. We can get along again Here's the bear again one day each the Bible says that he's like a roaring lion suit seeking whom he may devour Peter told us Here you come out every one of you notice You'll eat from your own vine. You'll get fig newtons and wine All right, instead of urine and dung you can't beat that, right? Surely you go for that and notice and every one of you will drink waters of your own sister We don't realize how wonderful we have it today that we can just go turn

on the faucet and have something to drink Have water to drink. I remember I'm old enough to remember My grandparents on my mother or my excuse me on my father's side my grandma and grandpa Hamilton They did not have indoor plumbing. All right, so we would go out there And you know, you'd have to go to you have to go out house And you you know as far as taking a bath in the bathroom and all those things you just don't take it Think of how you know nice we've got it today All right And notice until I come and take you away notice He says to a land like your own land a land of grain and new wine a land of bread and vineyards a land of olive Groves and honey surely you would make peace and surrender to me, right? That you may live and not die but

Do not listen to Hezekiah least he persuaded you saying the Lord will deliver us You know what the devil has done and he's still doing today these

peace treaties Peace treaties, you know, the Bible tells us for instance in Jeremiah. I want you to see this Jeremiah chapter 6 Notice and from the prophet even to the priest everyone deals falsely saying peace peace When there is no peace You know, I was I looked this up In the

history of the world It's impossible for them to give us a number of all the peace treaties that have been broken You know that in here something that I found very interesting that from 1878 to 1871 the United States government entered into more than 500 peace treaties with the Native American tribes and we violated and broke every one of them Every one of them you don't see them marching up and down the streets. So do you? Alright, and

what about the Middle East? Here we always have leaders. Oh, we're gonna get a peace treaty Yeah, but that peace treaty ain't gonna be worth the paper. It's printed on it's just going to be broken Why do you we call Jesus the Prince of Peace? Because we know peace will only come when Jesus comes. Amen. That's the only way back I was reading today. There are 250,000 treaties right now out there out there

but They're not being held up to all right. There's coming a day When a man the Bible defines as the Antichrist is going to come on the scene He's going to bring world peace in and man he's going to have dominance because he's the devil's pick spokesperson and he's gonna he's gonna promise all of these things and right, he's even going to make peace with Israel and Right in the middle of that peace negotiation. He's going to do something. He's going to go in and violate that peace treaty It's called the abomination of desolation. All right, he's going to violate it and then all you know What's going to break loose what's going to lead to the end? Of course with Jesus coming back after the Great Tribulation, but the Bible says in 1st Thessalonians regarding that For when they say peace and safety All right that instead of being a green light is a warning light It's a blinking warning light then sudden destruction comes upon them as labor pains upon a pregnant woman and they shall not Escape.

All right That's what we're talking about. And that brings me to my final point this morning And that is we're talking about don't make deals with the devil Well, let's look at some right

responses that we have here in our text How should we respond when he wants us to surrender when he wants to make peace when he wants us to believe his lies? Well, the first thing I want you to know that the people did that I wish people could do today Notice, but the people held their peace and answered him not a word for the King's commandment was do not answer him You know, it's preachers We're as bad as some of the politicians. We just got to have the last word We just got to say well, I know that's wrong. I got it. I'm gonna he's not gonna intimidate me You know sometimes as I note here Silence is golden It's golden in a home You know a soft answer turns away wrath just you know how we respond There are some fights that ain't worth fighting because if you win, all right It's kind of like a bulldog can whip a skunk but it's not worth it. Okay Sometimes silence is the best approach There's no adequate human response. It's the best answer is no answer Just say nothing. The Bible tells us in Proverbs chapter 26 and verse 4 do not answer a fool According to his folly least you also be like him you turn yourself into a fool when you argue with a fool All right, you come down to his level second point. I want to make here and these rightful responses is submit to the Lord Humble yourself in repentance Notice what King Hezekiah this is why the Lord was with him. This was why he was the great king This is why again he prospered notice and it was so when King Hezekiah heard it He tore his clothes and covered himself with sackcloth Can you imagine a leader today doing that? Can you imagine it? What what do you mean? You know, he put on the burlap. He put on a gunny sack It was a way that they would show humility. I Came

in the world with nothing. I'm going to leave with nothing Lord. I need you to answer my prayer I remember seeing a pastor one time and he I used to every Sunday wear the suit and the tie and they Everything. All right. I remember one particular Sunday a preacher was trying to get the attention of his congregation and he took his tie off and he unbuttoned his shirt and took his shirt off and he had made a gunny sack for a shirt a Vest underneath his shirt. He was trying to get his point across That it was that time in America and I want to tell you what it's past that time in America It's past that time in America notice.

The response is humility humility He want you know, I say it and I'll keep saying it until I die The Bible tells us every knee will bow Every tongue will confess its humility God. I can't do this. You can here. I'm acknowledging what's in my heart I'm showing in my body language My body language. I'm not being fake about this. I'm not being false about this I need you. I need your help. I need your guidance. I need your direction. I need your divine Intervention. All right third thing notice he says We see here he to seek the Lord Notice it says he went into the house of the Lord Now as a preacher and as somebody who's been a preacher for many many years Here's one of the things that's so odd and strange to me that I often see Christian so-called Christian people do They fall away from church They get it. They start having some issues. They start having some family problems. I Am more than one occasion have said to someone we've sure missed you in church. Oh When we get things straightened out We'll be back Can you imagine going to the doctor and saying that you know When I get well, I'll come back

and see you doc All right, it don't work that way You know They're listening to the wrong voices. They're listening to the wrong advice. They're listening to the devil's Advocate. All right, you don't want to do that and then fourth Notice here up here on the screen what this man did. He prayed a prayer You know, have you ever just went in sometimes and you want how do I pray? Well, this prayer here is his Shining moment. We see his heart for God. We see how much he loved the Lord He's teaching us how to pray. He it's different circumstances. Obviously, it's a different enemy as far as an Individual a name but notice here he received this letter from the hand of the messengers again this letter of intimidation and read it and Notice he went into the house of the Lord and spread it before the Lord Imagine taking a need that you have and laying it before God Laying it in a Bible there Imagine you've got imagine you've got a letter here. You got cancer Imagine you've got you got a letter here. Your child is in jail or your Personal problem you get a bill. How am I going to pay this bill? How are we going to pay all of these bills? How are we going to take care of these issues here and notice? Then Hezekiah prayed before the Lord and said Oh Lord God of Israel Notice the one who dwells between the cherubim. That is holy. Holy. Holy is the Lord God Almighty You have made heaven and earth notice Hear me Lord incline your ear. Oh Lord in here open your eyes. Oh Lord and see Hear the words of the devil notice here Which has sent which he has sent to reproach the Living God. All right Lord, he's taking your name. He's saying you're no good. He's

saying you can't do it. He's saying don't trust in you Truly Lord the king of Assyria have laid waste the nation's and their lands their reputation again precedes themselves But notice and have cast their gods into the fire for they were not gods But the work of men's hands would and stole therefore they destroyed them now Therefore our Oh Lord our God, I pray save us from his hand that all the kings of the earth may know that you are Lord God

you alone

Now When imagine your guard Some of us maybe I know I've worked as guards in places All right. I know my son did for a while down at rock a dime down at Neo show I know Gary has done that we're doing that right now. Okay imagine you're working as a guard and

There's an enemy approaching All right. What do you do? You go to the boss, right? You go to the chief you go to the commander. Okay You go to the commander. All right You don't run out there with a little gun if you see a big group coming after you. All right Guards don't get in those fights. They tell the commander. All right

Sooner or later. All right We're going to get in that position I read an example just this past week of a pastor His name was McGee last name was McGee and he had a very interesting story his daughter and her husband Went to Las Vegas His daughter had a drug problem He as a young man had a drug problem

He decided and he communicated this on on on the internet I'm assuming through Facebook or some other Avenue. He

communicated that he was going to go out And he was going to rescue his daughter and son-in-law He was armed so he went out to Las Vegas you might have remembered about five years ago or more somebody out in Las Vegas got up in a window when they were having a Concert deal and he shot from that window a bunch of people down there in that concert and killed a bunch of people Well, here's this guy he shows up. All right, he breathe He says something to the owner of the hotel the director of the hotel. Excuse me that Hey, I'm missing a gun All right That he was looking for. Well that immediately threw up red flags because you can't bring Guns in the hotels because in particular because of what happened there several years ago So they called the police they show up. All right, and he's got an assault rifle AR-15 He's got some fentanyl. All right with him and I want you to see what he asked prayer for

To his constituents to his Christian people quote That he knew fight with us against the enemies that are killing our children There's a war going on in the streets of America. Well, please pray for me today Hopefully I am going to rescue my daughter from where she is in Las Vegas Also, pray for anyone who tries to get in my way that I would lay hands suddenly on them And it would be quick and productive even though I am really good at hurting people I do not like that and I have tried to help them since I got saved at 17 in teen challenge So he's saying I'm going I'm loaded for bear all right, whatever I got to do to rescue them I'm going to do all right. Is that the right response? Is that what I admire the fact he's trying to save his daughter. Is that the right response? Well, I want to end this message by sharing with you

some ideas along those lines Notice we are to select the proper weapons of warfare Notice the Bible says for we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies But against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world against mighty powers in this dark world and against evil spirits in heavenly places Can you imagine getting in a fistfight? With someone you couldn't see You're swinging at the air. I mean he's sucker-punching you you can't see him You can't see him coming and you're out here wailing away at an enemy and Paul described him as such in 1st Corinthians chapter 9 in verse 26 No, do we have do you have a 1st Corinthians 9 26?

There it is. Thank you. I do not box as one beating the air All right Paul's saying I'm not out here shadow boxing because my enemy as he's just Communicating to us is not a flesh-and-blood enemy notice the weapons of our warfare are not carnal another Translation says the weapons we use in our fight are not the world's weapons. It's not assault rifles. It's not Again fistfights. It's not gunplay. Can you imagine trying to shoot an enemy that you can't see? Well, I got an AR-15 I can just scatter shot. What's going to happen to you? Well, I'll tell you what happened to Pastor McGee. He got arrested He got arrested and he's going to have to go to court and wire what's going on with his daughter She's still out there roaming around Because he's out of the picture now. He's trying to take it into his own hands. And what does the Bible say? Not by might nor by power But by my spirit Says the Lord of hosts be strong in the Lord in the power of his mind See King Hezekiah has given us example when we're going to fight him We don't try to fight him with our weapons of

warfare. We fight him and turn it over. We've got a big brother
We've got a big Heavenly Father We've got to trust him It
doesn't mean we just wave the white flag It doesn't mean that we
don't do what we can possibly do within the framework of the
law But we've got to let God do the impossible and I want to
leave you with this note There's a song that we sang before. Are
you weary? Are you heavy hand hearted? Tell it to Jesus Are you
are you fear of? Dying tell it to Jesus. We need to do like him
That's the way we're going to fight the war and that's the way
that Hezekiah Defeated his enemy because Israel did defeat this
Syrian army Because they turned it over to the Lord. Will you
stand with us?