











- 1  **THE LAME TAKE THE PREY**
Isaiah 33:20-23
- 2  **1. A bird in a cage**
- Sennacherib became king in 705 B.C.
 - Many of the countries revolted.
 - The revolt was led by Babylon
 - Isaiah warned King Hezekiah
 - Hezekiah instead listened to the advice of the pro-Egyptian Party.
- 3  **701 B.C.: Sennacherib's March South**
- One by one defeated nations who had revolted
 - Part of his army went south and to Egypt.
 - The rest of the army attacked Judah.
 - 46 cities destroyed.
 - Took 200,150 prisoners
 - Many fled to Jerusalem.
 - Kingdom became a wilderness.
 - Sennacherib: *"I made Hezekiah a prisoner in Jerusalem, his royal residence, like a bird in a cage."*
- 4  **2. Hezekiah's despair**
- Isaiah 37:1: *"And so it was, when King Hezekiah heard it, that he tore his clothes, covered himself with sackcloth, and went into the house of the LORD."*
 - Scene with King Hezekiah's advisors, finally ending in despair with Hezekiah going to the prophet Isaiah to ask him to pray for the nation.
- 5  **Isaiah 37:5-7**
- *"So the servants of King Hezekiah came to Isaiah. 6 And Isaiah said to them, 'Thus shall you say to your master, 'Thus says the LORD: "Do not be afraid of the words which you have heard, with which the servants of the king of Assyria have blasphemed Me. 7 "Surely I will send a spirit upon him, and he shall hear a rumor and return to his own land; and I will cause him to fall by the sword in his own land.'"*
- 6  **3. God's warning to Sennacherib and Assyria**
- Isaiah 33:1-2: *"Ah, you destroyer, who yourself have not been destroyed, you traitor whom none has betrayed! When you have ceased to destroy, you will be destroyed; and when you have finished betraying, they will betray you. 2 O LORD, be gracious to us; we wait for you. Be our arm every morning, our salvation in the time of trouble."* ESV
- 7  **3. God's warning (2)**
- Assyria, the destroyer, will be destroyed.
 - The traitors – would themselves be betrayed.
 - Trust in Jehovah was the only safety for God's people.
 - Lesson that Hezekiah and his people learned the hard way.
- 8  **Isaiah 33:21-23**
- ²¹ *But there the majestic LORD will be for us A place of broad rivers and streams, In which no galley with oars will sail, Nor majestic ships pass by* ²² *(For the LORD is our Judge, The LORD is our Lawgiver, The LORD is our King; He will save us);* ²³ *Your tackle is loosed, They could not strengthen their mast, They could not spread the sail. Then the prey of great plunder is divided; The lame take the prey.*
- 9  **4. The lame take the prey**
- A remarkable prophecy – made before Sennacherib's army had ever come south.
 - Assyria's defeat will be like a shipwreck.
 - There will be so much spoil even the lame would join in the plunder.

10  **Isaiah 37:36-37**

- Isaiah 37:36-37: *Then the angel of the LORD went out, and killed in the camp of the Assyrians one hundred and eighty-five thousand, and when people arose early in the morning, there were the corpses, all dead. ³⁷ So Sennacherib king of Assyria departed and went away, returned home, and remained at Nineveh.*

11  **Isaiah 37:38**

- ³⁸ *Now it came to pass, as he was worshiping in the house of Nisroch his god, that his sons Adrammelech and Sharezer struck him down with the sword, and they escaped into the land of Ararat. Then Esarhaddon his son reigned in his place."*

12  **4. The lame take the prey (2)**

- Number and nature of the defeat:
 - Sennacherib's army was loaded with bounty.
 - The people of Jerusalem awoke the next morning to see the city surrounded by dead bodies.
- There were so many dead soldiers and so much rich bounty, that, as Isaiah prophesied, even the lame could take the spoils of victory.

13  **5. Application for today**

- Example of Jacob
 - Jacob lived all his life by his wits.
 - Finally, on his way home, he learns that his brother Esau is coming to meet him.
 - Reverted to his old ways.
 - Sent gifts to his brother.
 - He was left alone at the ford of Jabbok.
- He wrestled all night with a Man.

14  ***Wrestling Jacob* by Charles Wesley**

- Charles Wesley captured the meaning and significance of that all-night wrestling match
- When we read the poem or sing the hymn, it becomes personal for us
- The 'I' becomes me.

15  ***Wrestling Jacob* by Charles Wesley**

*Come, O Thou Traveller unknown,
Whom still I hold, but cannot see,
My company before is gone,
And I am left alone with Thee.
With Thee all night I mean to stay,
And wrestle till the break of day.*

16  ***Wrestling Jacob* by Charles Wesley**

*Contented now upon my thigh
I halt, till life's short journey end,
All helplessness, all weakness I,
On Thee alone for strength depend,
Nor have I power, from Thee, to move;
Thy nature, and thy name is LOVE.*

17  ***Wrestling Jacob* by Charles Wesley**

*Lame as I am, I take the prey,
Hell, earth, and sin with ease o'ercome,
I leap for joy, pursue my way,
And as a bounding hart fly home,
Through all eternity to prove
Thy nature and Thy name is love.*

18  **Examples of the lame taking the prey**

- Gideon and his 300 - pitchers, lamps and trumpets
- David and Goliath
- The Apostles in Acts - Acts 4:13: *"Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus."*
- The Apostle Paul - 1 Timothy 1:15; 2 Cor. 12:9
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