

Isaiah: A Prophet for Our Time  
Selfish Faith  
Isaiah 39:1-8

We have a society in general and a government in particular that have become the embodiment of the idiom, “kicking the can down the road.” Politicians too often fail to do what is necessary in the moment choosing instead to delay decisions on difficult issues, unless of course, they have the support of the polls. As long as things go well in their term of office, they will gladly leave balanced budgets, lowered debt, and entitlement reform to future politicians.

1. Selfish faith boasts in material things.
  
2. Selfish faith is easily influenced by the enemy.
  
3. Selfish faith cares only for personal comfort.

We must speak with an unselfish faith, a faith that relies on the only biblical hero never to be admonished for sin, our Savior and our true King, Jesus. Our faith is not meant to provide material blessing, even though God may grace us with material blessing. Our faith is not meant for personal comfort. It may call us to live in dangerous places among dangerous people. Only faith in Christ can keep us from kicking the can down the road expecting others to do the hard things for God’s kingdom.

Reflection

2 Chronicles 32:24-31 tells the story of Hezekiah’s sickness, healing, prosperity and pride. At the end of verse 31 it says, “God withdrew from him, in order to test him, that He might know all that was in his heart.” What is the significance of that statement for us? How does God reveal selfishness and pride in us? What motivated Hezekiah to show all of his kingdom’s treasures to the Babylonians? In what ways are we tempted to do the same? What example does Isaiah set for us as he confronts Hezekiah’s pride and selfish faith? What is a multigenerational vision and why is it important for churches to embrace it? Take a minute to read Psalm 139:23-24 and if you are prepared for God to act in your life, read it to Him as a prayer for you personally.