A NAIL IN A SURE PLACE

PART 2

 **DATE: 1/17/2018 Wed.**

**TEXT: Isaiah 22:20-25 (v. 23)**

**INTRODUCTION**

With all the bizarre behavior that exists among men today,

It’s refreshing to find men who are Men and not ashamed to be Men

They Act like men, They Look like men, They Dress like men

More than this, however, it is a blessing to meet men who are Balanced

I’m speaking of men who have strength of character but are also gentle and kind

They know how to be strong, responsible, and manly, but they also know how to be tender and considerate

They have Character, Conviction, Consecration, and Self-Control, and at the same time …

The ability of Giving, Generosity, Thoughtfulness, Humility, and Love

They treat others with Kindness, Respect, Gentleness, Consideration, and Love

They don't take folks for granted

With this in mind, we find a man like this in **Isaiah 22**

His name was Eliakim

Most of us have never heard of him, but he was a man of outstanding Character

Like the Lord Jesus, he was a man of Character and Compassion

In fact, as we look at his life, we will see that this man is a picture or ***“type”*** of the Lord Jesus Christ in several ways

Let me list the first two here (We will see more)

**1.** Eliakim points to the Lord because of the meaning of his name

His name means *“my God will raise up; my God shall arise; or raised up by God”*

As we will see, that is what the Lord did for him in Hezekiah's kingdom

Clearly his name also points to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ who was raised from the dead

**2.** Eliakim also reminds us of the *“servant attitude”* of the Lord Jesus Christ because he was referred to as God's servant

I’m taking my Title for this Message from **v. 23**

***“And I will fasten him as a nail in a sure place;”***

**~~~Prayer~~~**

So far, we have seen Eliakim’s …

**I. “SERVANTHOOD” – v. 20**

**II. “STRENGTH” – v. 21 a**

**III. “SHEPHERDING” – v. 21 b**

**He was a Nail Hammered in a Sure Place!**

This evening we will look at 3 more of his godly traits

First, let’s look at …

**IV. HIS “SOVEREIGN” RESPONSIBILITY – v. 22**

***“And the key of the house of David will I lay upon his shoulder; so he shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open”***

Eliakim would have the key of the house of David upon his shoulders

It’s possible; this refers to a literal insignia worn by the chief administrator or a literal key

The initial thought is an allusion to how ancient governmental authorities would have a hook sewn onto their upper garment upon which a key would be hung

It not only was utilitarian and convenient, it also by its very presence was a symbol of authority

In the immediate context, it would symbolize the administrator's authority to grant or exclude access to the king

He would also have the key to the king's treasury and be in charge of the financial affairs of the kingdom

This would be Eliakim's responsibility

Granting access to the king constituted phenomenal power and required immense integrity if the position was not to be abused

Having this power would also require that the king could trust the one who was giving access to himself

Obviously, Eliakim was a man that was trusted, unlike Shebna, who used his position to make money by granting access (pay to play)

More importantly Eliakim is a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ who has the key of David

The Roman Catholic Church has taken this verse to establish the office of the Pope of Rome

The Pope, however, is not God's replacement on earth

He has never been raised to an equal position of Jesus Christ and he is not the mediator between God and men

He is a sinner like everyone else!

Paul said **I Timothy 2:5 –**

***“For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus”***

Christ is the only One that can give a person access to God

He has the key to Heaven

Because of Jesus, we can make our petitions before the throne of God

**Revelation 3:7 *– “And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith He that is Holy, He that is True, He that hath the Key of David, He that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;”***

Jesus is quoting **Isaiah 22:22** here

**Hebrews 4:16 – *“Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need”*** (Esther)

**Ephesians 3:11, 12 *– “According to the eternal purpose which He purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:” “In Whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of Him”***

**Isaiah 22:22** is definitely a prophetic reference to Christ

Eliakim was the Key Man / He was a Nail Hammered in a Sure Place!

**HIS “SOVEREIGN” RESPONSIBILITY**

Next, let look at …

**V. HIS SACRED “STABILITY” – vs. 23, 24**

***“And I will fasten him as a nail in a sure place; and he shall be for a glorious throne to his father's house”
“And they shall hang upon him all the glory of his father's house, the offspring and the issue, all vessels of small quantity, from the vessels of cups, even to all the vessels of flagons”***

The Strength and Beauty of Eliakim are illustrated here

God said that He would fasten him as a nail in a sure place

What is the Lord talking about?

In ancient homes, many times pegs were built into the actual construction of the house, making them practically immovable

They were extremely strong, able to handle great weight and heavy loads

Their beauty was seen in the fact that they were so practical and helpful

These pegs were used to hang a variety of important items, including shields, armor, and weapons

God said that He would hang upon Eliakim the glory and the wealth of that royal house

Even the small, insignificant items had his attention

He would be trusted with all these important matters

This was a great responsibility, and God equipped Eliakim for the task

Beloved, God equips us to do what He wants us to do

What we cannot do in our own strength, we can do through the power of the Lord Jesus Christ who is concerned about the smallest of tasks

**Philippians 4:13 *– “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me”***

Eliakim's character, integrity, and concern for those he was leading demonstrated that he was a man of Character

His attitude and actions brought stability and honor to the royal house, as well as the kingdom

His work, in turn, brought honor to the King and his family

His balanced life brought blessing to those who were served by him

Let me ask - Are you a stable, consistent, responsible person or are you up and down and wishy-washy?

When it comes to your Christian life, your example, attitude, words, and testimony …

Do you have stability in these areas or are you inconsistent?

If you struggle to be a stable Christian, there are some things you can do to gain stability in your life

Let’s look at some basic Principles for strengthening your Christian walk...

**A. A Consecrated, Christ-like life gives Stability**

When someone is determined to live like Christ, they will find Stability in their life

**Psalm 15:1-5 - *“LORD, who shall abide in Thy tabernacle? Who shall dwell in Thy holy hill?” “He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart” “He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour” “In whose eyes a vile person is contemned; but he honoureth them that fear the Lord. He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not” “He that putteth not out his money to usury, nor taketh reward against the innocent. He that doeth these things shall never be moved”***

**B. Calling upon God gives Stability**

Having a consistent Pray life will give someone stability in their life

**Psalm 17:5, 6 *– “Hold up my goings in Thy paths, that my footsteps slip not” “I have called upon Thee, for Thou wilt hear me, O God: incline Thine ear unto me, and hear my speech”***

**C. Being Comforted gives Stability**

The Comfort and Cheer from other believers gives Stability

That’s why it’s so important to be in church often

**Hebrews 10:25 *– “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching”***

**D. The Care of God Helps Us Not to be Moved or Shaky**

**Psalm 121:3 – *“He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: He that keepeth thee will not slumber”***

**Psalm 62:6 *– “He only is my rock and my salvation: He is my defence; I shall not be moved”***

**E. Giving God your Troubles will Stabilize your Life**

**Psalm 55:22 – *“Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and He shall sustain thee: He shall never suffer the righteous to be moved”***

**F. Staying Close to the Lord will keep us from stumbling**

**Psalm 16:8 – *“I have set the LORD always before me: because He is at my right hand, I shall not be moved”***

**G. We must stop being Double-minded**

**James 1:8 – *“A double minded man is unstable in all his ways”***

We must make up our minds that we are going to be committed to living for God

The words ***“double minded”*** means *having two souls; doubting, hesitating, fickle, wavering, and uncertain*

The double minded man is pulled in two directions

They can't make up their mind what decision to make

He is a man of divided loyalties

This makes him wishy-washy or unstable in all his ways

The word ***“unstable”*** also means *fickle, not nailed down, restless*

The man with a divided heart leads a distracted, restless life

He is always on the fence

His life is not controlled by the wisdom of God

Some folks will not trust Christ as their Saviour because they are double-minded

Their indecisiveness is in essence a decision, a decision not to trust in Him

God wants us to make up our minds, beloved

Get in, or get out, get on or get off

The best thing we can do is choose to serve Him

We cannot live for this world and live for Christ

We must make a choice

**Joshua 24:15 b - *“as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord”***

**Matthew 6:24 - *“No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon”***

The description of Eliakim as a nail in a sure place, describes his stability

The stability of Eliakim is a picture of the stability of Christ

He was a nail in a sure place

Our Lord faced horrendous pressure, stress, and strain,

Especially as the ordeal of the cross approached

The strain was so great that He sweat great drops of blood as He prayed in the garden

His mind was made up, because He had resolved to not do His own will, but the will of the Father

**John 8:29 *– “And He that sent Me is with Me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please Him”***

**Luke 22:42 *– “Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from Me: nevertheless not My will, but thine, be done”***

He didn’t pray that because He was thinking about quitting

He prayed that for you and I to see that He was resolved

**Philippians 2:8 – *“And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross”***

Christ is the solid rock of ages

He is the foundation in which we can build our lives

**HIS “SOVEREIGN” RESPONSIBILITY**

**HIS SACRED “STABILITY”**

**VI. HIS “SILENCE” STILL SPEAKS – v. 25**

***“In that day, saith the LORD of hosts, shall the nail that is fastened in the sure place be removed, and be cut down, and fall; and the burden that was upon it shall be cut off: for the LORD hath spoken it”***

**A. Eliakim could only do so much**

The day would come when he would eventually die

The stability that he provided for Judah and the royal house would diminish

It was only temporary

Concerning Judah, the nation eventually went into captivity

They turned their backs on the Lord and they were led away into Babylon

The accumulated weight of Judah's rebellion ruined the nation in spite of the efforts of such a capable leader

Because God's people would not repent, Eliakim was destined to eventually fail

The hope of Judah was not to be in a great man,

It was to be in God

But the people were not willing to acknowledge this truth

God was trying to get His people to see that trusting even in good, capable men would prove to be disappointing

God wants all of us to learn to rely and trust totally in Him

And Just as Eliakim was silenced …

**B. Christ was silenced on the cross**

He loved mankind and did all that He could to show people that He was God,

But they continued to refused to believe

The truth was staring them in the face

The Truth is staring us in the face

One miracle after another attested to the fact that He was the Son of God,

Yet, the nation would not turn to Him

He came unto His own, but they rejected Him and crucified Him on the cross of Calvary

**John 1:11 *– “He came unto His own, and His own received Him not”***

For three days Christ was entombed, but unlike Eliakim, He arose from that grave

His resurrection was the ultimate proof that He was the Lord and could conquer death

Our Lord is a nail in a sure place

The weight of our sin rested upon Him

His promises of cleansing, forgiveness, and eternal life are stable and secure

The glory of Heaven rests upon the Lord Jesus Christ

Heaven is all about Him!

Men like Isaiah, Daniel, and the Apostle John got a glimpse of Him in glory

**Isaiah 6:3 – *“And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of His glory”***

One day, if Jesus tarries, you will lie silent in your grave

You will keep your appointment with death

**Hebrews 9:27 *– “And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:”***

Where will you spend eternity?

If you are unsure about going to Heaven, then put your faith in the Nail Hammered in a Sure Place

Jesus Christ will take you there

Make it the aim of your life, whether a man or woman,

To Be a Nail Hammered in a Sure Place

**CONCLUSION**

**HIS “SOVEREIGN” RESPONSIBILITY**

**HIS SACRED “STABILITY”**

**HIS “SILENCE” STILL SPEAKS**