

I Have Bad News

What do you do when you receive an unfavorable report from the doctor? What do you do when you hear bad news? What do you do when you are called out on your sin? None of these things are what we want to hear, but we are likely to hear them at some point in our lives or even the near future.

Here are a few examples of how people reacted to bad news in the Bible.

Job had everything you might want. He had a nice house, a nice family, servants, and livestock. In a matter of minutes he lost nearly all of it. One after another the servants brought him the bad news. His response was one of faith. He knew nothing physical is promised. He put his trust in the Lord.

Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised (Job 1:21).

Hezekiah found himself gravely ill. He was told by the prophet of God he was not going to live. He then prayed,

Remember, O Lord, how I have walked before you faithfully and with wholehearted devotion and have done what is good in your eyes (2 Kings 20:3).

I am not sure if this prayer by Hezekiah was a prayer for healing or a prayer for God to remember these things as he passed on to death. Either way, this should be a prayer for us to pray. God granted Hezekiah an extra fifteen years of life on earth. He may grant us an extra fifteen minutes. May we, in our lives, be able to pray this honestly that we have lived a faithful life of devotion and have done what is good.

Ahab was one of the most evil kings in Israel. Even so, he frequently inquired of the leaders of Israel and the prophets of God as to what he should do. There was one prophet who he particularly despised, Micaiah.

I hate him because he never prophesies anything good about me, but always bad (1Kings 22:8).

May we never be so hard hearted like Ahab so when God calls us on our sin that we will not listen. Paul says that there are people like Ahab who only want their ears tickled and won't listen to the truth (2Tim 4:3).

May we be people who look to and trust in God when we hear things we don't want to hear.-

--Alex Swango