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Devotion for September 14th, 2021

"The Lord spoke to Manasseh and to his people, but they paid no attention. Therefore the Lord brought upon them the commanders of the army of the king of Assyria, who captured Manasseh with hooks and bound him with chains of bronze and brought him to Babylon. And when he was in distress, he entreated the favor of the Lord his God and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers. He prayed to Him, and God was moved by his entreaty and heard his plea and brought him again to Jerusalem into his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the Lord was God."

- 2nd Chronicles 33:10-13

Who was Manasseh? He was the son of King Hezekiah and he followed his father as ruler of the kingdom of Judah. He lived in Jerusalem, the capital city of Judah. After reading the passage for today, we can see that he and his people had not listened to God when He spoke. God put Manasseh through a trial to show him something, Something very important that you and I forget sometimes.

So, let me ask a couple of questions concerning what took place in our reading for today. First, who was "in charge" of Manasseh and the kingdom of Judah? Second, who was "in charge" of the commanders of the army of Assyria? God!

God was "in charge" then and God is "in charge" now. God put Manasseh through the trial of being captured to help him see the reality of who was "in charge". If Manasseh had not humbled himself before God while in captivity, what would his life have looked like until he died? What about after death?

God loved Manasseh and the people of Judah. He brought them back to His side through the trail of their king. But the same thing can happen in our lives

as we get so involved in controlling our own lives without God in them.

We can fail to see who is really "in charge" of our lives, also. When this happens we need to humble ourselves before the Lord and ask for His forgiveness. Where would you be without God in your life and what about after?

Let us pray. Lord, forgive us when we go off on our own, ignoring You and Your Word. Forgive us when we think that we are "in charge" of everything in our lives and we don't think we need anything or anybody else. Thank You for the forgiveness You give to us as a gift through Your only Son, Jesus Christ, in whose name we ask this petition. Amen!

*In Christ Jesus,
Rev. John Kyle, Associate Pastor
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