

annual pilgrimage to Jerusalem, a considerable time previous to the issuing of the proclamation by Hezekiah.

PRACTICAL LESSONS.

The principles by which Hezekiah was governed, Equity, Benevolence, Fidelity, Zeal—"Wrought that which was good and right, and truth before the Lord his God."

1. *Equity*.—Avoiding all injustice, all wrong, he was not influenced by laws of expediency, but by claims of justice. "To do justly." This is one of the essential principles of morality and true godliness.

However we may seek to honor God or advance religion in the world, we must have as the basis of all our operations an unswerving regard to equity and righteousness. Hezekiah's good work rested, in the first place, on doing that which was right—right towards God and man.

2. *Benevolence*.—To do that which is for the real welfare of others, and that from true feelings of kindness. To be righteous is the demand of the Law. To be good, is the end both of the Law and Gospel.

3. *Fidelity*.—Described as truth in context. Fidelity in regarding God's covenants. Sincerity and uprightness of character. He acted as accountable to God, as in God's sight. He acted from a conscientious desire to honor God.

4. *Zeal for the honor of God*.—Hezekiah recognized that his first duty was to God. The people had turned away from honoring God. He would bring them back by re-establishing all the services God had appointed. He felt that all reforms would be of no avail in lifting the people from their apostacy and irreligion, unless the first aim was the glory and honor of God.

5. *Desire for the spiritual welfare of his subjects*.—He devoted special attention to the house of God, and to the observance of the institutions God had appointed. He recognized the connection between them and the divine glory, the divine favor, and the divine blessing. He also saw the very marked influence these had on man's elevation, happiness, and spiritual welfare.

It is just as true to-day. God's house and God's service are the bulwarks of a nation.

He who would bless his country and benefit his fellowmen, cannot do so in any way more effectual, than by directing his zeal to the worship and service of the Living God.

2. *True religion has its recognized principles*; Righteousness—Goodness—Fidelity;—Zeal—Consecration. We can accomplish nothing without these and they should never be compromised or neglected.

3. *The worship of God should not be neglected*.—God demands our worship. "Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God" is God's great commandment. He has expressly appointed it, encourages it by promised rewards, while neglect of it He has connected with severe threatenings.

4. *Divine worship is connected with rich blessings*.—Divine and Spiritual illumination of soul—Increase of faith—Sanctifying of soul, Conformity to the likeness of Christ—Elevation of soul to heavenly things—Increasing meetness for glory.

5. When we are under the rebukes of God's Providence, it is good for us to enquire whether we have not neglected God's ordinances, and whether that be not the controversy He has with us.

6. True service involves the consecration of ourselves to God. This surrender must be—

(a) Our own personal act. "Yield yourselves unto the Lord.

(b) A willing surrender. True religion is not the product of dread but of cheerfulness and love.

(c) It must be entire and unreserved. God will have all as his right and due,—the hand, heart, mind, talents and influence. We should value very highly the privileges of the Lord's House.

Come to them in a spirit of intense desire and longing expectation. David delighted in the services of the Lord's House. Hezekiah considered a great privilege to worship and serve God.

We should invite others to the service of God so that His temple may be filled with worshippers.

QUESTIONS FOR STUDY.

1. What was the character of Hezekiah?
2. What work did he set himself to do?