

Process to deal with a threat or crisis
(An outline of a 3 points sermon/study summary)

F. W. 2-5-2019

Read II Chronicles Chapter 32:1-23

Introduction

Have you been facing a threat before - a crisis or a very difficult demand? You sure would like to know a process to deal with those situations when they arrive. Today I am going to show you the way as illustrated in the Bible and then tell you one of my past experience.

I think the Chinese word 危機 for the English word “threat or crisis” has a better description than English. The Chinese word has the “danger” part but follows an “opportunity” part. In our Christian life, that is exactly the case where opportunity like spiritual growth or build strength in faith can be resulted from a threat or crisis through Christ.

I am glad that God’s word holds true and applicable in the past, present and future. This example took place over 2000 years ago but we can apply it today if you really study it and mediate on it, so that the Holy Spirit can guide you on the understanding and application of a Bible passage. Thus, in this case, the applicable crisis is not just country at war but also your daily situation at work, your family and personal relationship crisis to situation like facing a terrible sickness.

As a background of this chapter, King Hezekiah reigned over the southern kingdom of Judah for twenty-nine years, from around 715 to 686 BC. During his reign, the prophets Isaiah and Micah ministered in Judah. In 701 BC, Hezekiah and all of Judah faced a crisis. The Assyrians, the dominant world power at the time, invaded Judah and marched against Jerusalem. The Assyrians had already conquered the northern kingdom of Israel and many other nations, and now they threatened Judah (II Kings 18:13).

Stage 1 – Pre-crisis and early stage of the crisis

a. Pre-crisis:

Hezekiah was **doing what was good and right and faithful before the Lord his God** (II Chron. 31:20). You must be always abide in God (John 15:5). This is a general prerequisite for you

to be able to face crisis. Examples are like you are consistent in your walk with Christ such as often prayer, read and study God's Word, do His will, etc.

b. Early stage of the crisis:

1) **Consult experts** (spiritual and technical). You can see He is the type that consults spiritual leader like vs. 20 where prophet Isaiah prayed with him together. He consulted with his officials and military staff (vs. 3)- technical consultant. It is even better if the technical consultant is a Christian. It is very important to consult a technical member because God created the world in its natural order and His allowed governing rules. Thus, consultant can be medical doctor in medical crisis or subject matter expert of the issue at hand.

2) **Plan well and work hard in preparation. (vs. 3 - 5)**. The word "worked hard" indicates we should try our best. God gave you wisdom and strength for you to exercise them.

3) **Have confidence (vs. 6-8)**. Verse 8 has the best description of this, "with us is the Lord our God to help us". Our confidence is in our Lord. We know our Lord is almighty, and He gave us the strength and peace (Psalms 29:11).

Stage 2 – During the crisis (Things getting tougher)

a. **Continue to rely on God** – "The Lord our God will save us from...." (Vs.11).

b. **Challenged with threat or more pressure** – Vs. 13-19. Here, the king faced threats with insult. It is not uncommon that things can get worse. Here is the real test of faith and spiritual growth; growth will come once you have gone through it. For example, your job situation might get worse even you have done all the above, or your medical condition seems to get worse or diagnosed with more issues.

c. **More prayer** – Vs 20 "King Hezekiah and the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz cried out in prayer to heaven about this." – In this example, more prayer members and "cried" out in sincerity.

Final Stage – The end of the crisis

a. **The Lord works in His time and way**. In this case, "the Lord saved Hezekiah and the people of Jerusalem..." (Vs. 22)

- b. **Praises belong to the Lord, and you might get rewarded also.** –
“Many brought offerings to Jerusalem for the Lord and valuable gifts for Hezekiah king of Judah. (vs 23).

I have a personal experience about this process. Years ago while I just joined a company where I hardly know my upper management. One day, suddenly my Executive Director called me into his office. I just knew him he is my Boss' boss and have a big office in the large area not far from my cubical. He asked me to do an assignment. An assignment that is not really in my assigned work area, nor an area that I have experience in. After that short conversation on the assignment, I can't tell he was trying to test me or find an excuse to eliminate me. Once I got home, I called my senior Pastor Mark Kor Cheng and described the situation and requested for prayer. He immediately prayed with me in the phone. After that, I started to think about resources and started to talk to someone in the company that did this before (talk to consultant). Unfortunately, those that I talk to stated this type of task is a long process and not easy at all to meet the deadline that has given to me. I did more research and more prayers, and then I think I found a solution. I started to work hard on it.

Later, I found out there was a group of people that were supposedly to do this task and did not get funded. That task supposedly takes over half a year to 9 months with a team of 8 to 10 people. I need to get this done in one month. Those members got upset that my director did not fund them for months of work on that task, mainly because the project do need it be completed in a month (may be my director miss-calculated it or had a bad negotiation of fund and schedule with the other team). Regardless, the other team members mocked me and said I will never finish it by myself or even with a little help especially I never done it before. Those team members done it many times and still took them many months. (This is Stage 2- more threat and pressure that the situation seems hopeless). However, I remained in prayer those days, and hard working with my tools. Keep working towards my solution.

Final stage – I got it done on time and the job was perfect. About 2 weeks later, I had called in my Executive Director's office. He congratulated me and gave me a bonus. Later, I gave the good news to my pastor. We praised God. He even took my experience in part of his

sermon to give glory to God about God's faithfulness. In addition, the process of going through this crisis turned into an opportunity for me to build faith in Christ.

This whole experience is like an exact repeat of the process and situation as King Hezekiah over 2500 years ago. Of course, it is in today's society. The point is that God's word & teaching is applicable at all time. Let God lead you through in your next threat or crisis while you follow the above steps during the crisis!