Where Eagles Dare

Today we are going to talk through a lesson called “Where Eagles Dare.”
Ken Blanchard wrote a long time ago: “Eagles soar…and ducks quack.”

In life, there are eagles and then there are…well…ducks. What do eagles do that ducks don’t do that sets them apart and allows them to soar?

In this room…it probably isn’t right to talk about ducks…you are a group of eagles…you were an eagle somewhere…that’s why you are in the room…so this is a room of eagles…

We all have our duck moments…*Insert your own illustration of using poor judgment or making an embarrassing mistake.*

We all have our duck moments…the good news is we remember them more than anyone else for the most part.

While we all have our duck moments…by and large this is a room of eagles.

But in this room…there are Eagles among the Eagles…some in this room are daring to do things that allow them to soar higher than the others…I want to talk about what it takes to be an Eagle even among Eagles…

I am going to use King Hezekiah to do it…He is an Eagle among the eagles…elite among the kings of Judah…Look at the verse there at the top of the page…

**King Hezekiah: Eagle (among eagles) (2 Chronicles 29-32) (2 Kings 18-20) (Isaiah 36-39)**

2 Kings 18:5-7 5Hezekiah trusted in the LORD, the God of Israel. There was no one like him among all the kings of Judah, either before him or after him. 6He held fast to the LORD and did not stop following him; he kept the commands the LORD had given Moses. 7And the LORD was with him; he was successful in whatever he undertook.

No one like him among the kings of Judah…let me unpack this…
United Israel has 3 kings…King Saul…then King David…then Solomon…kings of united Israel…
During the reign of Solomon’s son Rehoboam Israel becomes divided into two kingdoms…

The northern ten tribes called Israel…and the southern tribes called collectively Judah.
All the kings of the northern tribes are ducks…worthless group of leaders all of them lead their people into sin and idolatry and ultimately devastation by Assyria…

In the southern kingdom of Judah…you have bad kings…have some ducks…but you also have good kings…Josiah, Asa, Uzziah, Jehosephat…these guys are eagles…some amazing things…and Hezekiah is Eagle among these Eagles.

I don’t know why…King Hezekiah is my jam…the ideas we are talking about today…growing in me for a long time…helped shape my leadership thinking…
I believe these are timely for us as a staff...so here we go...
I have been studying the life and leadership of King Hezekiah for years.

When you look at his life...break it into 4 parts...

**First part** is before he was king. 25 years before he is king. He is born to King Ahaz...who becomes King when Hezekiah is 9 years old.
Until he was age 25...he watched his father’s spiritual idolatry and leadership missteps cost Judah over and over again.
His brother (likely ½ brother) died in battle Lord was against them.
His dad shuts the temple...opens a pagan temple and places the articles of the temple of the Lord in the temple of the pagan God.  In his early life...King Hezekiah had a front row seat to see how his father’s apostasy and idolatry ruined the nation…I believe this early season marked him forever...set a resolve...a zeal in him that lasted throughout his life.

**Second PART** begins when his father dies and he becomes king at age 25 and lasts for 14 years.
This first 14 years of his reign are characterized by spiritual renewal.

When he becomes king, Judah is in ruins...spiritually and in every other way. Hezekiah goes immediately to work restoring the service of the temple...then he invites all the people of Judah and even some from the northern kingdom to celebrate the first Passover in generations...

The people come and celebrate...revival breaks out...people go back home all over Judah and even into the northern kingdom...and break down pagan idols...revival...

Hezekiah builds on the momentum...organizing the **Levites and the priesthood** and takes up an offering which is abundant...

**The third PART** of his leadership...Judah and Jerusalem come under siege of the Assyrians...a devastating and brutal army...devoured every nation in their path including the northern kingdom of Israel in 722BC. Now they are on his doorstep. Hezekiah prays to God and God hears him...cuts down 185,000 of the Assyrian troops...routs the army of Assyria and God saves Jerusalem and Judah. While the shortest probably the defining season of Hezekiah’s reign. God saved Judah from the fate of the northern kingdom.

**FINAL PART of his life** Last year of his reign he does massive building projects...gets sick and God heals him...pride rises up within him but then humbles himself and a few other things...(we really won’t talk about in this message)...likely co-regent with his son Mannasah for last 10 years of his reign until his death at age 54.

That’s a summary of Hezekiah life and leadership...He is an eagle among eagles...from his leadership...we can learn about becoming eagles.

**Seven daring practices that set eagles apart**

Now if you are looking for a theme to hang this teaching on: The theme is Self Leadership. King Hezekiah is a model of self leadership.

1. Eagles dare to cultivate **zeal**.
Hezekiah watches his father led Judah astray from God…and it set a zeal into him…
Underneath all the outer activity was an inward white hot flame of zeal burning for God…for God’s people…for God’s house…ZEAL to restore Judah back to GOD.
This passage is his first speech he delivers to the priests as he reopens the temple doors…

2 Chronicles 29:6-11 6Our parents were unfaithful; they did evil in the eyes of the LORD our God and forsook him. They turned their faces away from the LORD’s dwelling place and turned their backs on him. 7They also shut the doors of the portico and put out the lamps. They did not burn incense or present any burnt offerings at the sanctuary to the God of Israel. 8Therefore, the anger of the LORD has fallen on Judah and Jerusalem; he has made them an object of dread and horror and scorn, as you can see with your own eyes. 9This is why our fathers have fallen by the sword and why our sons and daughters and our wives are in captivity. 10Now I intend to make a covenant with the LORD, the God of Israel, so that his fierce anger will turn away from us. 11My sons, do not be negligent now, for the LORD has chosen you to stand before him and serve him, to minister before him and to burn incense.”

This zeal is what kept him going…allowed him to fight well and finish strong.
Common characteristic of eagles…have cultivated a zeal deep inside them keep them going.

(Insert your own illustration of an interaction with someone who has zeal. Here is mine.)
Had the opportunity to sit with Ron Blue this Sunday (hanging out with him between services at central as he was doing his book signing.) Talked with him about his life and career…He has been teaching people God’s principles on money for over 40 years…now he is retired but he is busier than ever before…This is a guy who can stop whenever he wants…he has already done so much…fired up for what God is doing in the next season of his life…

So I asked him…”What keeps you going?” He said, “I just believe that when people see the Bible has everything they need to know about finances…it changes their life.”

That’s zeal…every eagle has cultivated zeal in their life.

- Eagles embrace zeal over passion.

Most people do not understand zeal because they mistake passion for zeal…not the same.
Let me explain the difference…

Passion is excitement…Zeal is Commitment…
Passion is rooted in the emotion… Zeal is rooted in the Will.
Passion is a feeling you get for God. Zeal is a Decision you make for God.
Passion is about your HEART FOR GOD. Zeal is about your STRENGTH FOR GOD.

Passion gets married…zeal is how you STAY married.
Passion is what a New believer has…. Zeal is what a lifelong follower of Jesus has.

Passion raises its hands in worship…zeal says no to temptation when no one is looking…
Passion worships God in the light…Zeal can worship God in the dark…when feelings fade and nothing makes sense.
Passion chases spiritual goose bumps…Zeal chooses Spiritual GRIT…
Passion can get pumped about a vision…zeal can work tireless hours for countless years with limited affirmation to actually see the vision realized.
Because passion is rooted in our EMOTION...it is untrustworthy. Emotions wander...passion wanders...when you base your life on emotion YOU wander...you are untrustworthy.... People who live based on passion lack character, follow through, discipline, Ducks are passionate as long as the bread is being passed out...then they scatter to whatever seems to promise another emotional loaf...

Eagles are zealous...

Zeal is rooted in the WILL. Zeal is a decision. Determination. Perseverance. Zeal stays committed while emotions and passions wander. People who are zealous are reliable...can do...whatever it takes kinds of people...

That top verse says about Hezekiah: He held fast to the Lord and “HE DID NOT STOP.” Passion stops...zeal keeps going. Every time Hezekiah thought about stopping...he thought about his father...cultivated zeal.

- Eagles connect their zeal to God’s zeal.

Won’t spend a ton of time here because this is likely self explanatory...but very important...Eagles aren’t zealous for just anything...zealous for the things God is zealous for.

Hezekiah’s zeal was initiated and cultivated through his relationship with God...We know this He was zealous for the same things God is zealous for...this is the secret of sustaining Zeal...Our zeal comes and goes but God’s zeal is always white...When we connect our zeal to God’s zeal...we tap into an inexhaustible wellspring of energy.

In Scripture God is zealous for 3 things: His own NAME; His HOUSE; The next PERSON—The next ONE MATTERS to God...sounds kind of cheesy but it is biblically everywhere...God Leaves the 99 to go after the ONE...zealous for the ONE.

John 4 story of the Samaritan woman at the well...disciples go to town to get lunch...Jesus goes to the well to change a life...when the disciples come back they said...Jesus did you get something to eat. He said, “I have food you know nothing about.” That’s zeal Jesus had for the next one...

- Eagles allow zeal to consume them.

Psalm 69:9 9for zeal for your house consumes me, and the insults of those who insult you fall on me.

David wrote, “Zeal for the house consumes him.”

It is the nature of zeal to consume...this is where many of us struggle with zeal...There is a price tag to be paid to be zealous...Zeal consumes...Zeal consumes your time...it consumes your energy...options...it consumes your thoughts...it consumes your relationships...it consumes your convenience...your finances.

People with zeal always look like fanatics to people without zeal. Not... “They have food the others know nothing about.”

We have been talking about ministry-life balance...and I think this conversation about zeal plays into it.
When you lack zeal…you easily hear it wrong…you think the conversation is about how to balance your life so that you don’t have to be consumed…do ministry without paying a price…without pouring yourself out…That’s wrong…

Vocational ministry is rooted in zeal that “pours itself out” “offers itself up” a zeal that consumes…

Spiritual leadership at some point boils down to one person being crucified so that many could be redeemed…that isn’t radical…that’s normal…that’s how ministry works.

John 12:24–26

Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.

Without this consuming zeal…that offers itself up and pours itself out…ministry is fruitless.

The conversation about balance is not about how to learn to do ministry without being consumed and crucified…it is about how to be consumed but not see your marriage and family and soul consumed… …that’s the balance…we offer ourselves up…not offer our souls up, or are marriages up…or are kids up…

so that you can say with the apostle Paul and also…” outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.”

It all starts with zeal.

2. Eagles dare to get out in front.

2 Chronicles 29:3

In the first month of the first year of his reign, he opened the doors of the temple of the LORD and repaired them.

Dan used the language a few years back in LDG…get out in front…so good…glad it fits in with the story of Hezekiah…

When you read his story…you get the sense Hezekiah was waiting to be king…watching his disaster of a father…and he was thinking…working out ahead of time what was he going to do when he becomes king.

When he become king…the strategy was already set…he was out in front…First month of the first year of his reign…he wasn’t strategizing…he was acting. Hezekiah already knew what to do when he got there…He was out in front.

This is what eagles do…they get out in front in their thinking…let’s unpack it.

Let’s talk about it…

• Eagles think a season ahead while they work the season they are in.

Eagles work through this season and at the same time they THINK through the next season…
Eagles fulfill all their responsibilities for today…which is hard work…and then they do the hard work of looking into the future…

It takes a combination of initiative, anticipation, aggressive and contemplation…in short…it takes zeal to spend the time, after you have already worked hard today, to get out in front.

Eagles reap the reward of being out in front…better understanding of the next season…learn to anticipate opportunities and obstacles before they happen…

This is a lot of what makes someone an eagle…fly higher so they see farther.

- **Eagles get out in front in their ministry.**
  Whatever your ministry is…you should know more about it than anyone here at 12Stone…
  Who are the top five people in your field? Have you talked to them…what are the best practices that they all have in common? How is their thinking different?
  Who is where you hope to be? Have you talked to them?
  What are the top five books in your field? Have you read them?

No one should know more about your ministry area than you…

- **Eagles get out in front before meetings.**
  In meetings…you should get out in front.
  Think through the meeting and the pre-work you need to have done.

Ever have a meeting come to a halt because someone wasn’t out in front? I have.

(Insert an illustration of a meeting you attended in which you were unprepared for your boss’s questions.) When you find yourself asking questions of your boss Google has the answer to…you are being a duck.

Eagles get out in front…and it opens up the possibility for #3.

3. **Eagles dare to push the leadership pace.**
   I am going to read through these verses…I want you to pay attention to time indicators…

   2 Chronicles 29:3 In the first month of the first year of his reign, he opened the doors of the temple of the Lord and repaired them.

   We already talked about this…King Hezekiah was out in front…

   2 Chronicles 29:17 They began the consecration on the first day of the first month, and by the eighth day of the month they reached the portico of the Lord. For eight more days they consecrated the temple of the Lord itself, finishing on the sixteenth day of the first month.

First day of the first month…I love this…new JOB…day one…That’s how you start a new job…Some people treat the first week of new job like the first week of a new semester…just coast…meet new people…probably not going to be a ton of work…NOT EAGLES…eagles show up and start MOVING.
Early the next morning King Hezekiah gathered the city officials together and went up to the temple of the Lord.

It takes them 16 days to consecrate the temple...on day 17...EARLY THE NEXT MORNING...
As soon as possible...he gathers everyone and begins the process of establishing the service of the Temple....
When it is all done...

So the service of the temple of the Lord was reestablished. Hezekiah and all the people rejoiced at what God had brought about for his people, because it was done so quickly.

It is not an accident that God brought it about so quickly...He had a leader who was an eagle...who dares to push the leadership pace.

I don’t know how this fits into your theology...but it certainly seems to be true in this Scripture. When the leader moves fast...God works fast. When the leader takes forever...God takes forever.

Some of us might be wondering why God is not moving as fast as you want him to...perhaps the answer...you are not moving as fast as you could.

What if you are not waiting for God...what if God is waiting for you?

Eagles move fast...they push the leadership pace. And they do it without being reckless...

Eagles can push the pace without being reckless...because they are out in front. If you are not out in front...just start moving fast...you are reckless...

Reference HBR Article the correlation between Speed and perceived leadership effectiveness.

Point- Here is the point of the article...if you want to be an eagle...you need to figure out how to move faster...how to push the leadership pace.

Let’s dive in..

• **Eagles increase pace by stacking up calendar on purpose.**

You calendar is to your time what your budget is to your money. If you don’t use one...you are leaking time everywhere.

Literally...practically...put more things on your calendar...not just anything...why it is important to get out in front...

I had a thought about how to illustrate this...it would be fun to ask two of our leaders who I think move pretty fast...Jason and Norwood, to take a screen shot of their weekly calendar from the last few weeks...I pick them because I think they both move fast.

Let’s look at Jason’s calendar... stacked calendar...
Norwood’s calendar… stacked calendar…

Now…your calendar does not necessarily need to look like that…though I believe it would help you if it did…but I believe you are cheating the team when you don’t stack your calendar in your own way.

If you are a leader and you find yourself moving slowly throughout the day, you are probably not doing enough to help the team. Most of the time, leaders dart from one event to the next, or are focusing to create a new product/presentation that will help the team. They are always looking to identify problems in the organization and tackle them quickly, so that the organization can become better or more effective.

Eagles push the leadership pace by stacking their calendar…

When they get done…we are all amazed at what God did…because he did it quickly.

Let me get one level more practical…
Here is how I build my calendar…might be helpful to you…do this on Sunday for the upcoming week… Modification of something John Maxwell wrote in “Developing the Leaders” within you.

− What is required of me?
What are your core responsibilities and new territory goals required of you…For me…anything my bosses ask of me I put as a requirement.

− What brings the greatest return for 12Stone?
After required…begin thinking what might I do to bring about the greatest return for the church as a whole.

• If the only things on your calendar are your job description…you are likely not out in front.

(Insert a story about how you made the most of your time to deliver greater return to the church. Here is mine.)
Some months back…finished up a very large project…costing me 10 hours a week. (still tweak it but the core of it is done). I knew I had a short season when I had 10 extra hours a week not required. So I started thinking about what I might do to bring a return for our church…started thinking about need for culture training for new staff…been talking to a couple churches about their staff onboarding and development…made a chart…sat down with my boss and my chart…what do you think about this…began a conversation that ended with a team of us putting together the upgraded onboarding process…”Year One” for new staff and “Admin Development Group”…we believe all of these things will bring a great return for our church.

− What are other’s requesting of me?
When you do not budget your time…this tends to be where you start. Now we all want to help people and it is in our hearts to say YES to people…but if you never say NO you might consider that you are building your calendar based on THEIR REQUEST not YOUR PRIORITY.

− What is personally rewarding to me?
For me this might be grabbing lunch with a former resident who is now on staff…or something like that…valuable…but not first priority…that’s where it fits.

When you plan your week like this…stack your calendar…you will be amazed at how fast God moves.

Couple quick thoughts before we move on…

1. One of the ways you speed your pace is give yourself less time to do things…
If you have 4 hours to do a project…you take 4 hours…and you feel like you just have enough time.
If you have 1 hour to do the same project…you will do it in 1 hour…and you will feel like you have just enough time. (You get this…push the pace)

2. Might seem like I am hammering results over relationships. I am not…everything happens because of relationships here…what I am saying is some people are faster in relationship than others…Eagles care for people and invest in people faster…and this is a skill you can learn and grow in…and you need to if you are going to push the leadership pace.

4. Eagles dare to leverage momentum.

2 Chronicles 30:1 Hezekiah sent word to all Israel and Judah and also wrote letters to Ephraim and Manasseh, inviting them to come to the temple of the Lord in Jerusalem and celebrate the Passover to the Lord, the God of Israel.

King Hezekiah had quick success reestablishing the temple…but he doesn’t go on vacation. He builds on the momentum created by the “win”…had a Passover

2 Chronicles 31:1 When all this had ended, the Israelites who were there went out to the towns of Judah, smashed the sacred stones and cut down the Asherah poles. They destroyed the high places and the altars throughout Judah and Benjamin and in Ephraim and Manasseh. After they had destroyed all of them, the Israelites returned to their own towns and to their own property.

After the Passover…which is a win…the people go home and destroy the pagan religious symbols…King Hezekiah’s REFORM leads to nationwide REVIVAL…even into the pagan Northern Kingdom

2 Chronicles 31:2 Hezekiah assigned the priests and Levites to divisions—each of them according to their duties as priests or Levites—to offer burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, to minister, to give thanks and to sing praises at the gates of the Lord’s dwelling.

After seeing the revival…Hezekiah builds on momentum to establish the priesthood…and take up an offering.

The first 14 years of his reign…Hezekiah is on a roll… Hezekiah knew how to take the energy from yesterday’s win and use it to win today’s battles…this is what it means to leverage momentum.

When zeal gets you out in front, push the leadership pace…and God actually accomplishes something through you…what you do with the momentum of that win…is you leverage it for the next win…

Means you cultivate zeal at the next level…get out in front at the next level and go after the next thing.
- Eagles manage their next back into their ministry.

(Insert an illustration of someone who pours back into their ministry. Here is mine.)
Kevin said something to me years ago marked me…he said it almost in passing but it stuck with me…changed my leadership.
Here is what he said, “Most leaders…when they accomplish something…start to look up and around for a NEXT…get a win then they get bored…look for the new position new promotion…new church…new adventure…

The very BEST leaders…when they accomplish something…look down and in for their next…how can we take what we just did and improve on it…best leaders just keep looking for the next thing to do to make what they are already doing better…

Such good advice…easy to struggle with this…I get it I have had my struggles…but I really believe any of us…if we just keep leveraging momentum back into your ministry…take it to the next level…the whole position, promotion thing takes care of itself…

5. Eagles dare to remain proactive. (reject passivity) and
2 Chronicles 32:1-8  
1After all that Hezekiah had so faithfully done, Sennacherib king of Assyria came and invaded Judah. He laid siege to the fortified cities, thinking to conquer them for himself.

One of the most discouraging verses in all of scripture for leaders…after all he had SO faithfully done for 14 years…the worst possible thing happens. Sometimes leadership is like that.

2When Hezekiah saw that Sennacherib had come and that he intended to wage war against Jerusalem, 3he consulted with his officials and military staff about blocking off the water from the springs outside the city, and they helped him. 4They gathered a large group of people who blocked all the springs and the stream that flowed through the land. “Why should the kings of Assyria come and find plenty of water?” they said.
5Then he worked hard repairing all the broken sections of the wall and building towers on it. He built another wall outside that one and reinforced the terraces of the City of David. He also made large numbers of weapons and shields.

Here is what I love about Hezekiah…part of what makes him an eagle…whatever discouragement or disillusionment he does feel…he sets it aside and he starts getting stuff done.

- Eagles focus on what they can do and not what they can’t do.

In the book “Seven Habits of Highly Successful People”…the first habit is BE PROACTIVE.  
In the chapter Steven Covey puts a picture that I believe is so helpful I want to show it to you.

(Normally I would just go to the whiteboard…but it would take 45 minutes…so I’ve drawn it in advance.)

There is your circle of concern…all the things you care about here at the church. Then there is your circle of influence…this is what you can actually affect. For all of us…our circle of concern is larger than our circle of influence. There are things happening here at the church…you care about…but don’t really have much control over…
In season of change…the gap grows wider…things changing…no one asking you what you think should happen…

It is easy to obsess about the things you care about but have no influence over…because that is where you feel vulnerable…but the more you obsess about this…the more passive you become…

When you obsess over the gap…it shuts down your ability to be proactive…you fall into passivity…blame others or just sit in self pity or talk about what you would do if you were in charge…

When you spend your time over this…you are not doing what you CAN do. but that’s not what eagles do…Eagles focus on what they can do…

Our campus pastors…in schools…some serious limitations…tons of things they care about…little influence over…
Instead of getting frustrated by what you can’t do…do what you can do.

- Eagles are never stuck.

(Insert a story of yourself or someone else who was creative and proactive when they were stuck.)

Eagles are never stuck…find a way to stay proactive.

You can always humble yourself…what will God do? Lift you up.
You can always serve someone…
You can always beg God to move mountains for you…

6. Eagles dare to absorb ministry pressure.
These are the words of Hezekiah to the people during the siege.

2 Chronicles 32:7-8  “Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or discouraged because of the king of Assyria and the vast army with him, for there is a greater power with us than with him. 8With him is only the arm of flesh, but with us is the Lord our God to help us and to fight our battles.” And the people gained confidence from what Hezekiah the king of Judah said.

During the siege…King Hezekiah constantly sought to relieve the people from the pressure. The only way to do this is to absorb the pressure onto himself…which he did.

Eagles absorb pressure…
Let’s talk about pressure for a minute.

Ministry is a pressure filled environment…here is a short list of different types of pressure that are part of doing ministry.
complexity…time pressure…deadlines…pace…financial pressure…spiritual warfare…change…normal job pressure (Ministry Action Plans-MAPS, reviews and bosses)…purpose pressure (weight of souls)…vision comes with pressure.

As our church grows the pressure grows…you noticed that? (The lie is that the season you are in is the most pressure filled season…and when you break through…there will be less pressure…just not true.)

Our ability to handle pressure can become a lid.

- Eagles understand stress and pressure are not the same thing.
  We tend to talk about these like it is the same…not the same. Pressure is around you and stress is inside you…not the same. Some people live with tons of stress…and seemingly limited pressure…You never know how hard someone is working just to be normal…Eagles figure out how to absorb an overwhelming amount of pressure without being overwhelmed by stress. You really don't get taken out by pressure…you get taken out by stress.

I have people ask me how the 12Stone Residency works…Well…we find people we believe have tons of potential…then we put them under amazing amounts of pressure…until they resolve the pressure…then we increase it…and as they can handle it we increase the amount of pressure they feel…until about 2 years…they can handle as much pressure as most of our staff…then they are ready…

- Eagles absorb pressure but resolve stress before God.
  2 Chronicles 32:20 20King Hezekiah and the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz cried out in prayer to heaven about this.
  It helps that Isaiah was his prayer partner…

7. Eagles dare to stay humble in success.
  2 Chronicles 32:25–26 25But Hezekiah's heart was proud and he did not respond to the kindness shown him; therefore the Lord's wrath was on him and on Judah and Jerusalem. 26Then Hezekiah repented of the pride of his heart, as did the people of Jerusalem; therefore the Lord's wrath did not come on them during the days of Hezekiah.

Pride entered his heart but it didn’t last. Even at the end…after all he accomplished and won…he is still a work in progress…still trips up from time to time…comforting to know.

When you have a measure of success…the voice of pride never shuts up…deceiving you to believe that you did all this by yourself…and wanting to make it all about you.

When you listen to the voice of pride within you…as Hezekiah did for a season…your leadership declines around you…
Humility also speaks…reminding us that we do all these things not so we can be eagles and enjoy our own awesomeness…Not so we would be lifted up higher…so HE would be lifted up higher…

Eagles are not the point…we are the tool. God’s zeal for His name…His house and the next one…that’s the point…

Let’s end with a great Saint Augustine quote on Humility

“Do you wish to rise? Begin by descending. You plan a tower that will pierce the clouds?
Lay first the foundation of humility.” Saint Augustine

Let’s pray together. (End in prayer.)