

Sermon 25: The Power and Limitations of a Legacy: 2 Chronicles 24:1-2, 15-25

Text: 2 Chronicles 24:1-2, 15-25 "Joash was seven years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years in Jerusalem. His mother's name also was Zibiah of Beersheba. And Joash did that which was right in the sight of the LORD all the days of Jehoiada the priest... **(15)** But Jehoiada waxed old, and was full of days when he died; an hundred and thirty years old was he when he died. And they buried him in the city of David among the kings, because he had done good in Israel, both toward God, and toward his house. Now after the death of Jehoiada came the princes of Judah, and made obeisance to the king. Then the king hearkened unto them. And they left the house of the LORD God of their fathers, and served groves and idols: and wrath came upon Judah and Jerusalem for this their trespass. Yet he sent prophets to them, to bring them again unto the LORD; and they testified against them: but they would not give ear. And the Spirit of God came upon Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest, which stood above the people, and said unto them, Thus saith God, Why transgress ye the commandments of the LORD, that ye cannot prosper? because ye have forsaken the LORD, he hath also forsaken you. And they conspired against him, and stoned him with stones at the commandment of the king in the court of the house of the LORD. Thus Joash the king remembered not the kindness which Jehoiada his father had done to him, but slew his son. And when he died, he said, The LORD look upon it, and require it. And it came to pass at the end of the year, that the host of Syria came up against him: and they came to Judah and Jerusalem, and destroyed all the princes of the people from among the people, and sent all the spoil of them unto the king of Damascus. For the army of the Syrians came with a small company of men, and the LORD delivered a very great host into their hand, because they had forsaken the LORD God of their fathers. So they executed judgment against Joash. And when they were departed from him, (for they left him in great diseases,) his own servants conspired against him for the blood of the sons of Jehoiada the priest, and slew him on his bed, and he died: and they buried him in the city of David, but they buried him not in the sepulchres of the kings..."

Part 1: Ahab's evil legacy: 24:1 "Joash was seven years old when he began to reign..."

- **Joash was a young boy when he became king:**
- **The years before his reign were tumultuous:**
 - This goes back to the story of Jehoshaphat and Ahab becoming friends.
 - Part of their alliances was a decision to encourage the marriage of their children Jehoram and Athalia.

- Jehoram was a wicked king and did not reign very long. (He reigned 8 years but was struck with a horrible disease that killed him.)
- His son Ahaziah also did not reign very long. (He reigned 1 year and was killed by Jehu.)
- When Ahaziah was cut off, his mother Athalia seized the throne and immediately attempted to murder all potential rivals to the throne (meaning her grandchildren).
- **Jehoiada intervened to preserve his life and to establish him as the next king: 22:10-12** “When Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and destroyed all the seed royal of the house of Judah. But Jehoshabeath, the daughter of the king, took Joash the son of Ahaziah, and stole him from among the king's sons that were slain, and put him and his nurse in a bedchamber. So Jehoshabeath, the daughter of king Jehoram, the wife of Jehoiada the priest...hid him from Athaliah, so that she slew him not. And he was with them hid in the house of God six years: and Athaliah reigned over the land...”
- **Athaliah's reign was a six-year reign of tyranny:**
 - She did not have a legal right to the throne.
 - She murdered her own grandchildren.
 - She aggressively pushed the nation into Baal worship.
- **This period of turmoil was directly connected back to Ahab's family and legacy:**

Part 2: The stabilizing influence of Jehoiada: 24:2 “And Joash did that which was right in the sight of the LORD all the days of Jehoiada the priest...”

- **He intervened to spare his life:**
- **He cared for him as a little boy:**
- **He removed Athaliah and anointed Joash as the rightful king: 23:1** And in the seventh year Jehoiada strengthened himself... **(11)**
Then they brought out the king's son, and put upon him the crown, and gave him the testimony, and made him king. And Jehoiada and his sons anointed him, and said, God save the king...”
- **He initiated a covenant between the people, God, and the King: 23:16** “And Jehoiada made a covenant between him, and between all the people, and between the king, that they should be the LORD'S people...”
- **He removed the idols that filled the land: 23:17** “Then all the people went to the house of Baal, and brake it down, and brake his altars and his images in pieces, and slew Mattan the priest of Baal before the altars...”
- **He assisted him to restore proper temple worship: 23:18** “Also Jehoiada appointed the offices of the house of the LORD by the hand

of the priests the Levites, whom David had distributed in the house of the LORD, to offer the burnt offerings of the LORD, as it is written in the law of Moses, with rejoicing and with singing, as it was ordained by David.

- **He lived to be 130 years old: 24:15** "Jehoiada waxed old, and was full of days when he died; an hundred and thirty years old was he when he died..."

Part 3: Joash's tragic end: 24:17-18

- **After his mentor died, he failed to stand against the pressure to go back into idolatry: 24:17-18** "Now after the death of Jehoiada came the princes of Judah, and made obeisance to the king. Then the king hearkened unto them. And they left the house of the LORD God of their fathers, and served groves and idols: and wrath came upon Judah and Jerusalem for this their trespass..."
- **He rejected God's warnings through the prophets: 24:19** "Yet he sent prophets to them, to bring them again unto the LORD; and they testified against them: but they would not give ear..."
- **He ordered the execution of Zechariah, Jehoiada's son: 24:20-21** "And the Spirit of God came upon Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest, which stood above the people, and said unto them, Thus saith God, Why transgress ye the commandments of the LORD, that ye cannot prosper? because ye have forsaken the LORD, he hath also forsaken you. And they conspired against him, and stoned him with stones at the commandment of the king...Thus Joash the king remembered not the kindness which Jehoiada his father had done to him, but slew his son..."
- **God turned his enemies against him: 24:23-24** "It came to pass at the end of the year, that the host of Syria came up against him...the army of the Syrians came with a small company of men, and the LORD delivered a very great host into their hand, because they had forsaken the LORD God of their fathers. So they executed judgment against Joash..."
- **His servants turned against him in his weakness: 24:25** "his own servants conspired against him for the blood of the sons of Jehoiada the priest, and slew him on his bed, and he died..."
- **He was not honored in his death: 24:25** "They buried him not in the sepulchres of the kings..."

Three Simple Truths:

- **Truth 1: Our lives will always leave an impact for good or for evil:**
 - Ahab: Ahab's reign was around 20 years, but his influence for evil lasted close to 50 years.

- Jehoida: Jahoida's life was long and for 130 years he was able to influence the nation for good.
- **Truth 2: We cannot live off another's faith:**
 - Jehoiada set Joash up for success.
 - He lived a very long time.
 - His influence was predominantly good.
 - Joash had no respect for his mentor's legacy.
- **Truth 3: Ingratitude is a terrible sin:**
 - God turned his enemies against him.
 - His servants turned against him in his weakness.
 - He was not honored in his death

Application:

- Be faithful and leave a godly legacy.
- Make the truth entrusted to you your own.
- Be a grateful person who remembers the kindness you have received.