

2 Kings 12 Bulldozer

Eye-pleasers

- **Athaliah daughter of Ahab/Jezebel reigns in South**
 1. Kills all heirs to Throne of David to reign as Queen
 2. One child left behind: Hidden by Jehoiada and wife
 3. Joash made King of Judah at **7 years old**

I. Jehoash Repairs the Temple

1 In the **seventh year of Jehu**, Jehoash became king, and he reigned **forty years in Jerusalem**. His mother's name was Zibiah of Beersheba. **2** Jehoash did *what was* right in the sight of the Lord **all the days in which Jehoiada the priest instructed him**.

- **Jehoash is Joash:** Now 30 years old?
- Reigned in Judah total 40 years
- Key verse

V2 Jehoash did what was right in sight of the Lord *all the days Jehoiada was instructing him*

- For now, Jehoash is doing what is right in sight of the Lord

3 But the high places **were not taken away**; the people still sacrificed and burned incense on the high places.

- **More Compromise:** High Places used for worship instead of Temple

"The people were so fondly and strangely addicted to the high places, that the foregoing kings, though men of riper years, and great power and courage, and finally settled in their thrones, could not take them away; and therefore, it is not strange if Jehoiada could not now remove them." [Poole]

- Reform in process...but will not be complete
- **Exemplifies Joash life:** Great start but does not finish well

4 And Jehoash said to the priests, "All the money of the dedicated gifts that are brought into the house of the Lord—each man's census money, each man's assessment money—and all the money that a **man purposes in his heart** to bring into the house of the Lord, **5** let the priests take it themselves, each from his constituency; and let them repair the damages of the temple, wherever any dilapidation is found."

- **Jehoash Reform:**
 1. Have priests collect taxes and free will offerings
 2. Have priests use money to repair/restore the Temple of the Lord

What is the money thing about at Churches? Is God broke? Many times, misused but... Lights are not free. Missions need funding. Materials need to be bought. Repairs need made

- How we use our money determines where we are at with God...Jesus

Matthew 6:19 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; 20 but lay up for yourselves **treasures in heaven**, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. **21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**

- Tithes and offerings keep church operating and missions going
- Generosity to fellow-believers is a part of loving one another fulfilling whole law

Galatians 6:10 [Context: We will reap what we sow] Therefore as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, **especially to those who are of the household of faith.**

- Generosity to unbelievers a witness; i.e. buying coffee in Name of Jesus

Our checkbook reveals our heart. No one is ever to give out of compulsion...at all...period

2 Corinthians 9:5 [Paul's reminder to Corinthians] prepare your generous gift beforehand, which you had previously promised, that it may be ready as a matter of **generosity and not as a grudging obligation.** 6 But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 So let each one **give as he purposes in his heart**, not grudgingly or of necessity; for **God loves a cheerful giver.** 8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.

- **Cheerful Giver:** gr. *hē-lā-ro's* Lit. Hilarious giver

Jehoash collect money to repair/restore Temple

- **Q.** Why did the Temple need to be repaired?

2 Chronicles 24:7 ...the sons of Athaliah, that wicked woman, had broken into the house of God, and had also presented all the dedicated things of the house of the Lord to the Baals.

- **Jehoash to Priests:** "Go gather money to repair the House of the Lord"

2 Chronicles 24:4 ...gather from all Israel money to repair the house of **your God** from year to year, and see that you do it quickly." **However, the Levites did not do it quickly**

6 Now it was so, by the twenty-third year of King Jehoash, that the priests had not repaired the damages of the temple. 7 So King Jehoash called **Jehoiada the priest and the other priests**, and said to them, "**Why** have you not repaired the damages of the temple? [no answer] Now therefore, do not take more money from your constituency, but deliver it for repairing the damages of the temple." 8 And the priests agreed that they would **neither receive more money from the people, nor repair the damages of the temple.**

- **Your Fired:**

1. Lost responsibility/privilege of gathering funds
2. Lost responsibility/privilege of repairing Temple

Ministry is a Privilege that can be taken away if not done responsibly

- **No one** is irreplaceable

If our motivation for serving is wrong we it will eventually be exposed or burn out

- **Pure motives lead to security and endurance [later]**
- **Priests fired:** New Plan...

9 Then Jehoiada the priest took a chest, bored a hole in its lid, and set it beside the altar, on the right side as one comes into the house of the Lord; and the priests who kept the door put there all the money brought into the house of the Lord.

Box by the doors: Calvary Model

- If the Box by the doors becomes empty...the doors by the box become closed

10 So it was, whenever they saw that there was much money in the chest, that the king's scribe and the high priest came up and put it in bags, and counted the money that was found in the house of the Lord. 11 Then they **gave the money**, which had been apportioned, into the **hands of those who did the work**, who had the oversight of the house of the Lord; and they paid it out to the carpenters and builders who worked on the house of the Lord, 12 and to masons and stonecutters, and for buying timber and hewn stone, to repair the damage of the house of the Lord, and for all that was paid out to repair the temple.

- **Oversight of Building:** OT Deacons. Supervisors over Craftsmen
 1. Pay Carpenters
 2. Pay Builders
 3. Pay Masons/Stonecutters
 4. Pay for Materials
- **Deacons:** Must be as Trustworthy men of God as Elders
- Temple starting to come together...

13 However there were not made for the house of the Lord basins of silver, trimmers, sprinkling-bowls, trumpets, any articles of gold or articles of silver, from the money brought into the house of the Lord. 14 But they gave that to the workmen, and they repaired the house of the Lord with it. 15 Moreover they **did not require an account from the men** into whose hand they delivered the money to be paid to workmen, **for they dealt faithfully.**

Gave the money and did not require an account...for **what they did they did faithfully**

- Whether anyone was **watching or not**...they feared the LORD
- But people *were watching*, noticing their faithfulness to the LORD

The people had complete confidence that the workers would **use the money correctly...**
I.e. In an honorable and efficient manner guided by the LORD and *for His glory*

"When the people were assured that the money would really be used for the purpose for which it was given, they responded generously..." [Wiseman]

16 The money from the trespass offerings and the money from the sin offerings was not brought into the house of the Lord. It belonged to the priests.

- Project was successful without Priests help
- Priests were still given normal offerings [embarrassing?]

SUMMARY Jehoash Repairs the Temple

II. Hazael Threatens Jerusalem

17 Hazael king of Syria went up and fought against Gath, and took it; then Hazael **set his face to go up to Jerusalem.**

- **Hazael King of Syria:** 2 Kings 8
 1. Elisha goes to Damascus Capital of Syria
 2. King of Syria sick. Sends servant Hazael to Elisha to ask if will recover
 3. Elisha answers yes then stares at Hazael and starts to weep

2 Kings 8:12 [Read] And Hazael said, "Why is my lord weeping?" **"Because I know the evil that you will do to the children of Israel"...** Their strongholds you will set on fire, and their young men you will kill with the sword; and you will dash their children, and rip open their women with child."

- Hazael went back and killed the King who would have recovered. Hazael now King
- Hazael **already wreaked havoc on the Northern Kingdom**

2 Kings 10:32 In those days the Lord began to cut off parts of Israel; and **Hazael conquered them in all the territory of Israel**

- Hazael's face now set to the South toward Jehoash
- **Hazael is already down in Gath;** i.e. modern-day Gaza just west of Jerusalem

....and Jehoash is terrified

18 And Jehoash king of Judah **took all the sacred things** that his fathers, Jehoshaphat and Jehoram and Ahaziah, kings of Judah, had dedicated, and his own sacred things, and all the gold found in the treasuries of the house of the Lord and in the king's house, and sent them to Hazael king of Syria. **Then he went away from Jerusalem.**

"An appeaser is one who feeds a crocodile, hoping it will eat him last." [Winston S. Churchill] [But it will eventually eat him]

Better die than sell your soul to the highest bidder. [Spurgeon]

- **Appeasement:** Knee-jerk reaction to a problem. Stop bleeding but not infection

1. No prayer
2. No going to the Lord
3. No hearing from the Lord
4. No wise council...

Just gather all the sacred items and give them to the oppressor; i.e. Throw it all away when it gets tough...everything of the Lord: Faith, Peace, Hope instead of going to Him first

- **Throw it all away because we're afraid:** He does not care about me
- **Throw it all away because frustrated:** He's not doing things way I think should
- **Throw it all away because we're anxious:** He is not acting in my time

I have to do something now? Quick fix to ease current situation

I'll do this thing I know is wrong for immediate relief; ask for forgiveness later... won't work

- **Instead: When it gets tough:** Don't give up Holy things God entrusted you with

Faith, Peace, Hope in His promise to take care of you...

Isaiah 40:27 Why do you say, O Jacob, And speak, O Israel: "**My way is hidden** from the Lord, And my just **claim is passed over** by my God"? 28 Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the Lord, The Creator of the ends of the earth, Neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable. 29 **He gives power to the weak,** And to those who have no might He increases strength. 30 Even the youths shall faint and be weary, And the young men shall utterly fall, 31 But those who wait on the Lord Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.

Give power to the weak? To those who wait on His plan, ways, time

- **Joash not one of those guys:** Takes the quick easy temporary fix. Why...

He found it hard to trust God in this difficult place because he stopped trusting God in easier circumstances long before. [Guzik] [Left high places in his life, compromise]

- **Beginning of the end for King Joash:** That thing you fed is coming back...[later]

19 Now the rest of the acts of Joash, and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah? 20 And **his servants** arose and formed a conspiracy, and **killed Joash** in the house of the Millo, which goes down to Silla. 21 For Jozachar the son of Shimeath and Jehozabad the son of Shomer, his servants, struck him. **So he died**, and they buried him with his fathers in the City of David. Then **Amaziah** his son reigned in his place.

- **Joash' own servants kill him.** Son Amaziah reigns Judah. Compromise continues

Jehoiada Finished Well. Joash ...not so much

2 Chronicles 24:15 [Read] But Jehoiada grew old and was full of days, and he died; he

was **one hundred and thirty years** old when he died. 16 And they buried him in the City of David among the kings, **because he had done good in Israel, both toward God and His house.**

- **Jehoiada Finished Well:** Loved God. Beloved by God and by God's people

[Cont.] 17 Now after the death of Jehoiada **the leaders of Judah came and bowed down to the king.** And the king listened to them.

- **Bowed down to king:**

1. Bulldozer of Political Correctness is coming
2. Jehoiada stood fast on Word of God. Victorious in resisting

Ephesians 6:13 [We are at war] Therefore, take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, **to stand.**

3. Joash is ready to be rolled over...

[Cont.] 18 Therefore they left the house of the Lord God of their fathers, and served **wooden images and idols**; and wrath came upon Judah and Jerusalem because of their trespass. 19 Yet He sent prophets to them, to bring them back to the Lord; and they testified against them, but they would not listen.

- **Insight into conversation with fools:** Not that the priest is dead. Cat's away...

[Cont.] 20 Then the Spirit of God came upon Zechariah the **son of Jehoiada the priest**, who stood above the people, and said to them, "Thus says God: 'Why do you transgress the commandments of the Lord, so that you cannot prosper? Because you have forsaken the Lord, He also has forsaken you.' " 21 So they conspired against [Zechariah son of Jehoiada the Priest, uncle and mentor to King Joash], and at the command of the king they stoned him with stones in the court of the house of the Lord. 22 Thus Joash the king **did not remember the kindness which Jehoiada his father** had done to him, but killed his son; and as he died, he said, **"The Lord look on it, and repay!"**

- Joash True Colors Revealed after death of Jehoiada his mentor...
- **2 Kings 12 Key verse...**v2

Jehoash did *what was* right in the sight of the Lord **all the days in which Jehoiada the priest instructed him.**

Implication: When Jehoiada stopped watching...Joash stopped doing what was right

- How many young adults "stop doing what is right" when they begin college away?
- **Did not remember kindness:** Uncle Jehoiada loved and mentored Joash
 1. Protected him from evil [Athaliah]
 2. Raised him in the ways of the Lord
 3. Instructed him how to be a Godly king

But after Jehoiada died, Joash listened to fools. Forgot the kindness of God exemplified by godly influence of his uncle and finally **stoned his Uncles son to death to shut him up**

- Began by doing “what was right in the sight of the Lord”
- Ended up murdering the innocent. What happened to Joash?

Key: Our motivation for doing what is right must be our deep love for our God

- Joash did what was right in the sight of God so long as it was in sight of his uncle
 1. **People Pleasing:** Putting what people think above what God thinks
 2. **Eye-Pleasing:** Doing what we do to impress people not to please God

Ephesians 6:5 [Employees be obedient to your employer] with **fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ;** ⁶**not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers,** but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God **from the heart,** ⁷with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, **and not to men,** ⁸knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord...

Colossians 3:22 [Do what is right] not with **eyeservice,** as **men-pleasers,** but in **sincerity of heart,** fearing God. ²³ And whatever you do, **do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men,** ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you **serve the Lord Christ.** ²⁵ But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality.

- Our motivation for doing good **must be our love for God**

John 14:15 “If you **love Me,** keep My commandments.”

- Not...If you feel guilty keep My commandments
- Not...If you want to earn your Salvation keep My commandments
- Not...If you want to look good in front of others keep My commandments
- Not...If you still live at home keep My commandments
- Not...If your Godly uncle is still alive keep My commandments but...

...If you love Jesus [lit.] “you will” keep His commands

- Motivation/Rationale for doing good [not for Salvation or praise of others but...]
- Ephesians 6 and Colossians 3 text...
 1. Out of Sincerity of heart
 2. As unto Christ
 3. Not with eyeservice
 4. Not as men-pleasers but as servants of Christ
 5. Doing the will of God from the heart unto the Lord not men
 6. With goodwill doing service
 7. Heartily at to the lord and not to men

After temporary peace from compromising, Joash’s enemy comes back with a vengeance...

[2 Chron. 24 Cont.] ²³ So it happened in the spring of the year that the **army of Syria came up against [Joash];** and they came to Judah and Jerusalem, and **destroyed all the leaders of the people** [v 17] from among the people, and sent all their spoil to the king of Damascus [Hazeal]. ²⁴ For the army of the Syrians came with a **small company of men;** but the Lord delivered a very great army [of Judah] into their hand, because they had

forsaken the Lord God of their fathers. So they **executed judgment against Joash**. 25 And when they had withdrawn from him (for they left him severely wounded), his own servants conspired against him **because of the blood of the sons of Jehoiada** the priest, and killed him on his bed. So he died. And they buried him in the City of David...

- Sons [plural] of Jehoiada?
- Same guy who fixed Temple, planted flowers, taught SS kills multiple sons of mentor

Our love for God is our motivation for doing what is right
Any other motivation will lead to compromise, appeasement, ultimately defeat/humiliation

...but they did not bury **[Joash] in the tombs of the kings**.

- If our motivation for doing right is for man's applause, **we will not finish well**
 1. Joash leaders easily destroyed by small army [Leaders like him...milk toast]
 2. Joash own servants murder him.

Political correctness Satanic. Period. Bullying and devilish
We live in a sin-sick world that is calling the shots using PC

- PC makes people's insincere offences be our God. "I'm offended." And? Who are you?
- PC means we choose to obey man rather than God
- PC tolerates sin ridden bullies to supersede God's influence in our life. Unacceptable.

There is a time to do as others wish, and a time to refuse. [Spurgeon]

If you yield to-day, you will have to yield more to-morrow. [Spurgeon]

...in trying to be courteous, we [may] also be... traitorous. [Spurgeon]

It is a wonderfully forgiving world if you will but quit your protest against it. [Spurgeon]

When we try please every person, we eventually end up offending every person [NJC]

It is exceedingly difficult in these times to preserve one's [loyalty] before God and one's [friendship] among men...Should not the former [loyalty before God] be preferred to the latter if both cannot be maintained? [Spurgeon]

Summary

- If our motivation for doing right is for man's applause, **we will not finish well**
- If our motivation for doing right is for God's pleasure, we will endure victorious
 1. Jehoiada stood against bulldozer of political correctness and on God's Word
 2. Jehoiada loved God and people the people loved him even when he said **"no"**
- **Jehoash did not finish well:**
 1. Temporal/Horizontal perspective
 2. Motivated by what others thought about him and being admired by sinners
- **Jehoiada finished well:**

1. Eternal/Vertical perspective
2. Motivated by God's love for him and the reward that awaited him from God