

AVOIDING SPIRITUAL FAILURE

2 Kings 12:1-21

From Pastor Phillip

In 2 Kings 11 we saw that God providentially preserved the Davidic line by protecting Joash from Queen Athalia's genocide. Rising to the throne at the age of seven, King Joash has a promising start, but a tragic end. Joash's forty-year-reign is mingled with compromise, idolatry, and wickedness. How can we protect ourselves from spiritually crumbling like Joash? We can avoid spiritual failure through remembering and committing to God's truth, and trusting ultimately in King Jesus.

I. A Promising Start (vv.1-16)

- A. Submitting to godly mentors (vv.1-2)
- B. Stewarding God's resources (vv.4-16)
 - i. How you steward your money reveals your priorities
 - ii. How you steward your time reveals your priorities

II. A Tragic End (vv.17-21)

- F - Forgetting the kindness and advice of godly mentors (2 Chronicles 24:22)
- A - Abandoning God and His commandments (2 Chronicles 24:18)
- I - Integrating idolatry and with God's enemies (v.3, vv.17-18)
- L - Listening to ungodly mentors (2 Chronicles 24:17)

FOR NEXT TIME— Read 2 Kings 13, *Elisha's God and Ours*

TO DISCUSS WITH FAMILY OR FRIENDS:

1. What should we look for in a godly mentor? How can we either initiate or maintain a godly mentoring relationship?
2. How can we protect against forgetting the advice and influence of godly mentors?
3. What are some ways we can discern if we are properly stewarding our money and time? What are some of our major priorities in life based upon how we steward our money and time?
4. What are some guardrails and practices we can put in place to protect ourselves from personal spiritual failure?
5. Who has God placed on your heart to share the gospel with this Christmas season? Who can you invite to our Christmas services? Pray for these people.