



**King Jotham – Self-Focused
2 Chronicles 27**

He Learned from His Father’s Experience (27:2)

Jotham’s father, Uzziah, disobeyed God’s commands and the priests’ warnings and offered incense on the incense altar in the temple. As a result, God punished him with a skin disease that Uzziah had until his death. Because of his father’s disease Jotham co-ruled with his father for 11 years until his father’s death. Every day Jotham was reminded why he was co-ruler, and he must have decided not to commit the sin his father had. *We can learn from our own experience, or other’s experience. When it comes to sin it’s always better to learn from someone else’s experience.*

He Established His Ways Before the Lord (27:6)

Jotham did what was right in the Lord’s sight (v.2). He also “did not waver in obeying” the LORD his God. “Did not waver in obeying” is literally, “established his ways.” To me it speaks of a determined and deliberate desire to obey God in his life. Obedience to God was a core value, a top priority, and a passion for Jotham. Because of his obedience, God gave Jotham success as a builder and warrior. Jotham built the Upper Gate at the Lord’s temple, presumably to encourage more worship at the temple. He built on the wall of Ophel, he built cities in the hill country of Judah and fortresses and towers in the forests. He conquered the Ammonites and they had to pay him a tribute of 7,500 pounds of silver, 50,000 bushels of wheat and 50,000 bushels of barley for three successive years! As it concerns his relationship with God, the Scripture records nothing negative about Jotham. *Are you deliberate and focused in your walk with God? Is it your passion to obey God?*

He Didn’t Bring Reform or Revival (27:2; 2 Kings 15:35)

All the previous “good” kings we’ve studied failed in serious ways with their personal walk with God, but not Jotham. Yet there was one blemish on his record. 2 Kings 15:35 states, “Yet the high places were not taken away; the people continued sacrificing and burning incense on the high places.” 2 Chronicles 27:2 says, “but the people still behaved corruptly.” While he obeyed God it doesn’t seem he was concerned that other people in his kingdom obeyed God. His grandson, Hezekiah will see this differently. The Bible doesn’t give Jotham’s reasons for not bringing reform or revival. Yet, I know a common reason Christians aren’t concerned about the lost or their brothers and sisters, and that is being self-focused. To me being selfish is thinking mostly about yourself because you think you deserve the self-attention. Being self-focused is taking care of yourself without giving much thought to other people. “Are we our brothers’ keepers?” Yes and no. Ultimately everyone is responsible to God themselves and we can’t save or change people. However, we do have an obligation to care for our brothers and sisters in Christ and make disciples of Jesus of the lost. *What level of care and concern do you have for others?*