UHAUL

"Finishing Well" June 7, 2015

"Uzziah was sixteen years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem fifty-two years... Uzziah sought God during the days of Zechariah, who taught him to fear God. And as long as the king sought guidance from the Lord, God gave him success... But when he had become powerful, he also became proud, which led to his downfall. He sinned against the Lord... When Uzziah died, he was buried with his ancestors; his grave was in a nearby burial field belonging to the kings, for the people said, "He had leprosy."

2 Chronicles 26:3-23 (NLT)

"Success can inflate a manager's belief in his or her personal ability to manipulate outcomes." -Dean C. Ludwig, Associate Professor of Management - University of Toledo

Pride causes you to forget you are ultimately not in control.

"Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account."

Hebrews 4:13 (NIV)

Pride causes you to confuse God's patience with His <u>approval</u>.

"The Lord isn't slow to do what he promised, as some people think. Rather, he is patient for your sake. He doesn't want to destroy anyone but wants all people to have an opportunity to turn to him and change the way they think and act."

2 Peter 3:9 (GW)

Lesson Learned: A great start doesn't guarantee a great finish.

Lesson Learned: A late start is better than no start!

"Paul was like a wild man, going everywhere to devastate the believers, even entering private homes and dragging out men and women alike and jailing them." Acts 8:3 (TLB)

With God's help, you can get up and start over again! But you've got to decide who you're going to believe:

- The Lord is our <u>advocate</u> (defense lawyer) (1 John 2:1-2)
- The Devil is our <u>accuser</u> (prosecutor) (Rev 12:10)