

SOUL TOXIC RELATIONSHIPS

(LEARN FROM THEM!)

September 19, 2022

2 KINGS 12:2 NKJV (2) Jehoash did *what* was right in the sight of the LORD all the days in which Jehoiada the priest instructed him.

2 CHRONICLES 24:17-19 NKJV – (17) After the death of Jehoiada, the officials of Judah came and paid homage to the king, and he listened to them. **(18)** They abandoned the temple of the LORD, the God of their ancestors, and worshiped Asherah poles and idols. Because of their guilt, God's anger came on Judah and Jerusalem. **(19)** Although the LORD sent prophets to the people to bring them back to him, and though they testified against them, they would not listen.

2 KINGS 12:1-3 says that Joash “reigned in Jerusalem forty years. . . . Joash did what was right in the eyes of the Lord all the years Jehoiada the priest instructed him.” **2 KINGS 12** goes on to describe various financial dealings of Joash. King Joash's main achievement was making repairs to the temple (**2 KINGS 12:4-16**). He also used a monetary gift to dissuade King Hazael of Aram (Syria) from attacking Jerusalem (**2 KINGS 12:17-18**). The tragedy of King Joash of Judah is that, after his mentor and guardian, Jehoiada, died, **he began listening to wicked advisers**. Joash revived Baal and Asherah worship in Judah (**2 CHRONICLES 24:17-19**). God sent prophets to warn Joash, but **he did not listen to them**. Finally, the prophet Zechariah, son of the priest Jehoiada, brought God's word to Joash, but the king cruelly ordered the son of his old friend to be stoned to death (**verses 19-22**). Joash's reign did not end peacefully: “His officials conspired against him and assassinated him at Beth Millo, on the road down to Silla” (**2 KINGS 12:20**).

The problem in this story is when we listen to people and we ignore God or make Him less (Which means the person you are listening to also becomes your idol), the following WILL take place:

- Joash refused to listen to God . . . and instead served idols. (Valued people popularity).
- The Lord sent prophets to Joash and urged the king to return. He would not listen to God.
- Joash refused and even murdered the son of Jehoiada.
- Joash always needed someone to tell him what to do.

Anything can become a god to us—anything we worship or put an excessive amount of time into. Even your feelings can become a god if you allow them to control you. We need to ask ourselves, Am I bowing down to God and His Word or to my feelings? Another challenge we have to confront is living in a world full of humanism and people not wanting God and His truth to interfere with their lives and routines. It seems we have an epidemic of selfishness in our world today, and this creates all kinds of unhealthy TOXIC situations.

SCRIPTURE READING: PROVERBS 25:26

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: Once people become your God, you are lost in Christ.

"A JOURNEY OF THE HEART"