

Relying on God totally

August 30, 2021

2 CHRONICLES 24:17-18 NKJV – (17) Now after the death of Jehoiada the leaders of Judah came and bowed down to the king. And the king listened to them. (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.

We all need people to influence us. God made us that way. From the languages we speak to the character we develop—it all begins with those who surround us in our formative years. But it shouldn't end there. It cannot. No doubt, a mentor is valuable. But we have to walk with God personally, and not depend on others to determine our resolve for the Lord. When it does, it's tragic. That was the case with King Joash. Today, we gather valuable lessons of personal faithfulness from the hard lesson King Joash learned.

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 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.

Let me close my lesson by saying I have been there. Putting people and their opinions before what God said. I know, you're saying “What if they are speaking on God's behalf”? Well I have two things to say about that. **(1)** What if your spiritual leader who is speaking correctly becomes your God? Because you don't verify what is being said. Therefore, they become your God **(2)** And if your spiritual leader is incorrect, you probably don't know because you haven't heard God's voice! Not familiar or can't relate. Even though valuable the influence of godly mentors may be in our lives—whether they be parents, pastors, or friends—we need to develop *personal* walks with God. We must listen to God before we listen to people. When we stand before Him one day, we will stand alone.

SCRIPTURE READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 10:14

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: “Whatever your heart clings to and confides in, that is really your God, your functional savior.”

“A JOURNEY OF THE HEART”