



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Good Kings – Bad Kings Series, Lesson 19

Lesson Title: King Joash... Good Start, Bad Finish

Take Home Point: Be faithful to God now and during your whole life.

Warm-Up:

Many people are familiar with the rise and fall of Rome and the Roman Empire. Over many years, Rome extended its control and influence across most of the Mediterranean world. This was accomplished by alertness to potential enemies, quick action to defeat them and expand Roman territory, and disciplined vigilance in maintaining control. What happened? A false sense of security began to seep into the Roman mindset. An impression of invulnerability began to grow. Accumulation of wealth, consumption, and a life of relaxed ease became paramount. In short, the citizens of Rome became complacent. They abandoned the way of life that brought their city to the pinnacle of western civilization at that time. As a result, they failed to recognize the very real threats that surrounded them and eventually overwhelmed them, destroying the empire in, what appeared to be, its time of mature glory.

Read: 2 Chronicles 21-24

Observation (What happened?):

Who did Joash look to for counsel when he first became king? Who did Jehoiada look to?

What did King Joash do that caused him to start down the road of wickedness?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Why was it important to restore the temple? How did the restoration help Judah?

Why do you think Joash turned from the ways he was taught by Jehoiada?

Insight:

What happened to Joash? Scripture tells us little beyond the facts in this account, but it seems clear that he got proud and complacent. Things went really well during his reign, so when Jehoiada was no longer on the scene to guide him, Joash relaxed his vigilance. The result was listening to men of position and ambition, not men of God. Complacency can happen to anyone, in any circumstance. When we lower our watchfulness, Satan creeps up to quietly tempt us. Joash suffered another problem – it appears that instead of internalizing God's way, he depended on Jehoiada's external influence during the entire priest's life with him. Does that happen today? It certainly does. What of Christians who don't study the Bible and pray on their own, and instead only listen to sermons in church, watch religious TV, and listen to religious radio? Are they ready to discern and resist temptation on a daily basis? Life is a marathon, not a sprint. Constant vigilance and preparedness to walk God's way must be a lifelong habit for each of us so we stay faithful to God our whole life.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

What temptation do you face that threatens your walk with God?

What steps can you take to avoid complacency and its consequences?

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