



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC Leadership Lessons from King Joash

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THEME Old Testament Kings of Judah - Lessons

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MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

Following Christ is a lifetime occupation, not just a fad for a season. We must aim to finish well, not just start well. There are many choices to be made – but only wise choices such as loving God wholeheartedly, following His word faithfully, and choosing our company wisely will bring abundant blessings from God. From the story of King Joash in 2 Chronicles 24:1-25, 2 Kings 9:6-8, 24-28, and 2 Kings 11:2-3, we learn valuable lessons and keys to partnering with God.

THREE KEYS IN PARTNERING WITH GOD

God has infinite power and is uncontainable. However, God can choose to limit His power to create space for us to partner with God. The question is whether we want to join Him in this partnership. We see an example of this in 2 Kings 4-8, 12.

God promised King David that his descendant would someday save the world. King Jehoram was a descendant of King David. His wife, Athaliah, plotted to kill all of his descendants. If she had succeeded, she would have killed all of King David's descendants and made the Lord's promise impossible to fulfil. But Jehosheba, one of King Jehoram's daughters, saved her baby nephew, Joash, by hiding him in the temple where her husband served as a priest. Joash was the only member of the royal family who was not killed, the very last descendant of the Davidic line.

The priest Jehoiada, who had been like a father to Joash, instructed Joash about the Lord and about his kingship duties as he grew up. When Joash was seven years old, Jehoiada knew the time was right. Together with the chief priests, they took advantage of the Sabbath to begin the revolt against Athaliah by placing Joash on the throne at the temple. The old armour that used to belong to King David was still stored in the temple. Jehoiada gave the old armour to army guards and told them to carefully guard the new boy king. He then crowned Joash in front of the people and presented him with a copy of the covenant (2 Kings 11:12).

3 KEYS IN PARTNERING WITH GOD:

A. LOVE OUR GOD WHOLEHEARTEDLY

Isaiah 46:9 says “I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me.” Joash was king for forty years. The early life of King Joash was one of victory and devotion to God. King Joash had a heart for worship and for the house of God. One of his major accomplishments was to repair the temple which Solomon had built more than a hundred years before. While Queen Athaliah ruled, the temple was not only neglected but also damaged: Its treasures had been stolen and then used in the worship of Baal. The priests and Levites had not been fulfilling their duties in taking care of the temple.

B. FOLLOW HIS WORD FAITHFULLY

We need God’s word as our compass in life to lead us to victory. Love the word of God and follow it faithfully. Leonard Ravenhill, evangelist and author of *Why Revival Tarries*, once said: “Smart men walked on the moon, daring men walked on the ocean floor, but wise men walk with God”.

C. CHOOSE YOUR COMPANY WISELY

1 Corinthians 15:33 says: Do not be misled: “Bad company corrupts good character.” The last part of King Joash’s life is a sad story of a life that walked away from God. When Jehoida the priest died, King Joash began to take bad advice from his officials. King Joash, the one who had once led his people back to God now led them to destruction. He allowed idol worship in the kingdom once again. When Jehoida’s son, Zechariah, prophesied against this, the officials plotted against him and stoned him to death. After this, the small Aramean army invaded Judah and plundered it. King Joash was murdered in his bed by his servants and was not even buried in the place where kings were buried. Ironically and in contrast, Jehoida (a priest and not a king) had received the honour of being buried where the kings were buried.

CONCLUSION

Like the many kings before him, King Joash started off right with God and was richly blessed. However, he chose the wrong company and followed ungodly advice in the later part of his life.

As believers, we must stay vigilant and be on guard against any thing that leads us astray from loving God wholeheartedly and following His word faithfully. Hold on tightly to God.

QUESTIONS

1. Of the 3 keys in partnering with God, which one do you find it hardest to hold on to? Why?

2. In the context of 2 Kings 11:2-3, explain in your own words what Elder Hock Chye meant when he mentioned that God can choose to limit His power to create space for us to partner with God. The question is whether we want to join Him in this partnership.

3. Share a recent situation where God has restrained his power in order to create the space for you to join Him in this partnership where He will see you through. How will you choose to respond?