

The Kings of Judah
Joash: Collects Money in a Chest
2 Chronicles 24:1-27
Lesson III
Written: April 8, 1990

Verse 1 Joash was seven years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years in Jerusalem. His mother's name also was Zibiah of Beersheba. **Verse 2** And Joash did that which was right in the sight of the LORD all the days of Jehoiada the priest. **Verse 3** And Jehoiada took for him two wives; and he begat sons and daughters. **Verse 4** And it came to pass after this, that Joash was minded to repair the house of the LORD. **Verse 5** And he gathered together the priests and the Levites, and said to them, Go out unto the cities of Judah, and gather of all Israel money to repair the house of your God from year to year, and see that ye hasten the matter. Howbeit the Levites hastened it not. **Verse 6** And the king called for Jehoiada the chief, and said unto him, Why hast thou not required of the Levites to bring in out of Judah and out of Jerusalem the collection, according to the commandment of Moses the servant of the LORD, and of the congregation of Israel, for the tabernacle of witness? **Verse 7** For the sons of Athaliah, that wicked woman, had broken up the house of God; and also all the dedicated things of the house of the LORD did they bestow upon Baalim. **Verse 8** And at the king's commandment they made a chest, and set it without at the gate of the house of the LORD. **Verse 9** And they made a proclamation through Judah and Jerusalem, to bring in to the LORD the collection that Moses the servant of God laid upon Israel in the wilderness. **Verse 10** And all the princes and all the people rejoiced, and brought in, and cast into the chest, until they had made an end. **Verse 11** Now it came to pass, that at what time the chest was brought unto the king's office by the hand of the Levites, and when they saw that there was much money, the king's scribe and the high priest's officer came and emptied the chest, and took it, and carried it to his place again. Thus they did day by day, and gathered money in abundance. **Verse 12** And the king and Jehoiada gave it to such as did the work of the service of the house of the LORD, and hired masons and carpenters to repair the house of the LORD, and also such as wrought iron and brass to mend the house of the LORD.

Verse 13 So the workmen wrought, and the work was perfected by them, and they set the house of God in his state, and strengthened it. **Verse 14** And when they had finished it, they brought the rest of the money before the king and Jehoiada, whereof were made vessels for the house of the LORD, even vessels to minister, and to offer withal, and spoons, and vessels of gold and silver. And they offered burnt offerings in the house of the LORD continually all the days of Jehoiada. **Verse 15** But Jehoiada waxed old, and was full of days when he died; an hundred and thirty years old was he when he died. **Verse 16** And they buried him in the city of David among the kings, because he had done good in Israel, both toward God, and toward his house.

Verse 17 Now after the death of Jehoiada came the princes of Judah, and made obeisance to the king. Then the king hearkened unto them. **Verse 18** And they left the house of the LORD God of their fathers, and served groves and idols: and wrath came upon Judah and Jerusalem for this their trespass. **Verse 19** Yet he sent prophets to them, to bring them again unto the LORD; and they testified against them: but they would not give ear.

Verse 20 And the Spirit of God came upon Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest, which stood above the people, and said unto them, Thus saith God, Why transgress ye the commandments of the LORD, that ye cannot prosper? because ye have forsaken the LORD, he hath also forsaken you. **Verse 21** And they conspired against him, and stoned him with stones at the commandment of the king in the court of the house of the LORD. **Verse 22** Thus Joash the king remembered not the kindness which Jehoiada his father had done to him, but slew his son. And when he died, he said, The LORD look upon it, and require it. **Verse 23** And it came to pass at the end of the year, that the host of Syria came up against him: and they came to Judah and Jerusalem, and destroyed all the princes of the people from among the people, and sent all the spoil of them unto the king of Damascus. **Verse 24** For the army of the Syrians came with a small company of men, and the LORD delivered a very great host into their hand, because they had forsaken the LORD God of their fathers. So they executed judgment against Joash. **Verse 25** And when they were departed from him, (for they left him in great diseases,) his own servants conspired against him for the blood of the sons of Jehoiada the priest, and slew him on his bed, and he died: and they buried him in the city of David, but they buried him not in the sepulchres of the kings. **Verse 26** And these are they that conspired against him; Zabad the son of Shimeath an Ammonitess, and Jehozabad the son of Shimrith a Moabitess. **Verse 27** Now concerning his sons, and the greatness of the burdens laid upon him, and the repairing of the house of God, behold, they are written in the story of the book of the kings. And Amaziah his son reigned in his stead.

2 Chronicles 24:1-27

In our last lesson we observed ,first of all, that in 2 Chronicles 24:2, we are told that Joash did right all the days of Jehoiada. There is a very sad note here.

Something that has been true of many and I suppose, could be true of any! The man's conduct was restrained only from without, never from within. It was outside pressure, pressure created by the presence of his godly uncle, that kept him doing what was right, and therefore kept him from doing wrong. He went on in life like this for 23 years, that was over half of the time of his reign.

I recall a conversation with an individual who said, "I couldn't do such and such because my mother would not approve." I think there are many who live like that. That is how I started out in my Christian life. I was very conscious of what my mother would think. But thank God, I grew up, at least a little. Perhaps we all started life like this. Restrained by a good mother or a good father. But the time always comes when that restraint, whatever or whomsoever it be, is lifted or removed from us. And what then? It is then we reveal our true self. Although we do not like to use the word, it is when outward restraints are lifted , then our inward hypocrisy is revealed.

As we see in this story, Joash did right as long as his godly uncle lived, but as soon as the aged man died, Joash reveals his true self, as we shall see. In 2 Chronicles 24:4 we noticed that there is an indication that all was not well with Joash, when he needed to be reminded to repair the house of the Lord. It seems that had his godly uncle not been his counselor, it would never have entered the kings mind to even think about the house of God. Spiritual matters had little place in the kings heart.

And 2 Chronicles 24:5 reveals the reason. He tells the Levites to gather money to repair the house of YOUR God, he did not say, the house of MY God. It would appear that he had no personal interest in the house of worship. He was willing to support the work for outward show, but his heart was not right with God. So later on we are not too surprised at the developments.

3. 2 CHRONICLES 24:4-7

Verse 4 And it came to pass after this, that Joash was minded to repair the house of the LORD.

Verse 5 And he gathered together the priests and the Levites, and said to them, Go out unto the cities of Judah, and gather of all Israel money to repair the house of your God from year to year, and see that ye hasten the matter. Howbeit the Levites hastened it not. **Verse 6** And the king called for Jehoiada the chief, and said unto him, Why hast thou not required of the Levites to bring in out of Judah and out of Jerusalem the collection, according to the commandment of Moses the servant of the LORD, and of the congregation of Israel, for the tabernacle of witness? **Verse 7** For the sons of Athaliah, that wicked woman, had broken up the house of God; and also all the dedicated things of the house of the LORD did they bestow upon Baalim.

2 Chronicles 24:4-7

- (1) Joash is minded to repair the temple.
- (2) The Levites fail in their responsibility.
- (3) Joash then blames the aged priest Jehoiada.

The king gives the command for the Levites to go gather money and in verse 6, he refers to the commandment of Moses. Exodus 30:12-15. Here we learn about the minimum amount that was to be collected. (Poll tax?)

Verse 12 When thou takest the sum of the children of Israel after their number, then shall they give every man a ransom for his soul unto the LORD, when thou numberest them; that there be no plague among them, when thou numberest them. **Verse 13** This they shall give, every one that passeth among them that are numbered, half a shekel after the shekel of the sanctuary: (a shekel is twenty gerahs:) an half shekel shall be the offering of the LORD. **Verse 14** Every one that passeth among them that are numbered, from twenty years old and above, shall give an offering unto the LORD. **Verse 15** The rich shall not give more, and the poor shall not give less than half a shekel, when they give an offering unto the LORD, to make an atonement for your souls.

Exodus 30:12-15

2 Chronicles 24:5, the kings command was, " see that ye hasten the matter. Howbeit the Levites hastened it not." 2 Kings 12:4-6 They collected money for twenty years and kept the money for themselves. They collected money for the work of God, but diverted it to their own use. Jim Baker did not originate anything!

And he gathered together the priests and the Levites, and said to them, Go out unto the cities of Judah, and gather of all Israel money to repair the house of your God from year to year, and see that ye hasten the matter. Howbeit the Levites hastened it not.

2 Chronicles 24:5

Verse 4 And Jehoash said to the priests, All the money of the dedicated things that is brought into the house of the LORD, even the money of every one that passeth the account, the money that every man is set at, and all the money that cometh into any man's heart to bring into the house of the LORD, **Verse 5** Let the priests take it to them, every man of his acquaintance: and let them repair the breaches of the house, wheresoever any breach shall be found. **Verse 6** But it was so, that in the three and twentieth year of king Jehoash the priests had not repaired the breaches of the house.

2 Kings 12:4-6

Darby Comments: "Even though the Kingly line was restored, there is not true zeal for Jehovah. The priests keep the money themselves, which they had agreed to use for repairing the house of the Lord...until the King interposes to set them in order. Everything was in a very low state, and to all outward appearances all was over with the house of David. But the faithfulness of God did not fail. (end quote)

Where would the work of God be if it had been left in the hands of men alone?

We can see something was wrong in the heart of the king. First, he has to be reminded to repair the temple. Then, he calls the temple "your house." And now as we come to 2 Chronicles 24:6, after we are told that the Levites had failed, the king seems to lay the blame for their conduct on the shoulders of the aged priest.

2 Chronicles 24:1 and 2 Kings 12:1 tells us Joash reigned for 40 years. 2 Chronicles. 24:15, Jehoiada died when he was 130 years of age. So when we come to 2 Chronicles. 24, Jehoiada was 113 years old. And I think that is aged. Remembering that, read 2 Chronicles 24:6 "And the king called for Jehoiada the chief, and said, "why hast THOU not required of the Levites etc..." Remember, Jehoiada is old. He has been like a father to the King. And if I read the story correctly, this seems to indicate that the young king (only 30 years of age) did not show much respect to this faithful elderly man.

Joash *was* seven years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years in Jerusalem. His mother's name also *was* Zibiah of Beersheba.

2 Chronicles 24:1

In the seventh year of Jehu Jehoash began to reign; and forty years reigned he in Jerusalem. And his mother's name *was* Zibiah of Beersheba.

2 Kings 12:1

And the king called for Jehoiada the chief, and said unto him, Why hast thou not required of the Levites to bring in out of Judah and out of Jerusalem the collection, *according to the commandment* of Moses the servant of the LORD, and of the congregation of Israel, for the tabernacle of witness?

2 Chronicles 24:6

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We notice in 2 Chronicles 24:16, when the priest dies, they honour him and bury him among the Kings. Throughout the entire story, no charges of unfaithfulness are laid against Jehoiada, and so we gather that the charge against him by the King was not just nor justifiable. The young man simply did not have any respect for old age.

And they buried him in the city of David among the kings, because he had done good in Israel, both toward God, and toward his house.

2 Chronicles 24:16

If you have read your Bible carefully, you will know what God thinks about this.

1 Timothy 5:1 instructs us, "Rebuke not an elder (and in this verse it means older) but intreat him as a father." Because of my age, I will say nothing more about it, except that God is taking into account the way the young treat the old.

Rebuke not an elder, but intreat *him* as a father; *and* the younger men as brethren;

1 Timothy 5:1

Furthermore, we unknowingly, reveal our heart condition spiritually, by the way we respect or do not respect those who are our seniors.

4 2 CHRONICLES 24:8-11 HOW TO COLLECT MONEY

Verse 8 And at the king's commandment they made a chest, and set it without at the gate of the house of the LORD. **Verse 9** And they made a proclamation through Judah and Jerusalem, to bring in to the LORD the collection that Moses the servant of God laid upon Israel in the wilderness.

Verse 10 And all the princes and all the people rejoiced, and brought in, and cast into the chest, until they had made an end. **Verse 11** Now it came to pass, that at what time the chest was brought unto the king's office by the hand of the Levites, and when they saw that there was much money, the king's scribe and the high priest's officer came and emptied the chest, and took it, and carried it to his place again. Thus they did day by day, and gathered money in abundance.

2 Chronicles 24:8-11

We remember that these events took place in the 23rd year of the reign of King Joash. 2 Kings 12:6. While the king's godly uncle lived, the reign of Joash was very prosperous. "Godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come." 1 Timothy 4:8

But it was *so, that* in the three and twentieth year of king Jehoash the priests had not repaired the breaches of the house.

2 Kings 12:6

For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.

1 Timothy 4:8

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We say the days were prosperous because the priests did well financially in gathering money for themselves and from what follows, the way they were able to gather money in abundance for repairing the temple. It proves that for those first 20 years, the people prospered. But because the priests had failed in their duty, a new plan to rebuild the temple had to be made. And so they made a chest, a money-box to collect money.

2 Kings 12:9 informs us that it was the aged priest himself who bored a hole in the lid of it, and set the chest by the altar on the right side where people entered the house of the Lord. It was set in a very prominent place, it could not be missed.

But Jehoiada the priest took a chest, and bored a hole in the lid of it, and set it beside the altar, on the right side as one cometh into the house of the LORD: and the priests that kept the door put therein all the money *that was* brought into the house of the LORD.

2 Kings 12:9

2 Chronicles seems to give the King credit for this plan, yet the book of Kings clearly states it was Jehiada who made the chest. I dare not be dogmatic, but notice 2 Chronicles. 24:12, "The King and Jehoiada" Again in 2 Chronicles 24:14, "The king and Jehoiada".

So to give one credit without the other seems to be wrong.

And when they had finished it, they brought the rest of the money before the king and Jehoiada, whereof were made vessels for the house of the LORD, even vessels to minister, and to offer withal, and spoons, and vessels of gold and silver. And they offered burnt offerings in the house of the LORD continually all the days of Jehoiada.

2 Chronicles 24:14

But I conclude from what follows in the record, this successful plan was the plan of the aged priest; a plan acceptable and put into operation by the authority of the King.

And so they place the box at the door. The most convenient place.

For at least seven years, a very small building, built for the purpose of holding public gospel meetings stood on the N.E. corner of my fathers homestead. And when you entered the door, there was a box at the door on which was written, "free will offerings".

For over 30 years Trossachs Camp, operated on the "free will offering plan." With a box at the door, there were no charges for meals or accommodations. Veteran Camp in Alberta (to which I go again this July for their 60th anniversary camp) had always been, and to my knowledge still is on the free will offering plan. And I rejoice in that!

I have attended Church business meetings in which people have discussed the best way to "take up offerings". The bag or the open plate. (Jews take their cheques to the office!)

In one meeting I recall, one brother said the bag is best for Jesus said, "let not your left hand know what your right hand doeth." But another brother said: "I think we should have the open plate. Because if the brother beside me puts in a \$10.00 bill, I am urged not to give less!"

At the time of that discussion we were using "bread-pans" for offering plates. Real dough-pans! And they would be filled to overflowing. Later I found out that even the full offering plates were used of the Lord to be a testimony.

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About the time, when still using the dough pans, John Wesley White led a 16 year old boy to the Lord at school. The boy's name was Jerry Carpenter. After he was saved, he told us that when he came to his first service on a Sunday night, he was really scared. He had heard so many false reports about us. He testified, he was expecting someone to start rolling down the aisle (holy-rollers you see) and others to try climb the walls. But he added, his heart was made more calm when the dough-pans passed by him. He was utterly amazed at the amount of money he saw to be in them. So the dough-pan was a witness!

I know when we talk about money it can be a touchy subject. I have been instructing students for many years. To all I have said the following when we talk about conducting public meetings. My first lesson is this. Learn to stand up. Learn to speak up. And learn to shut up! Then when making the announcements. I instruct that they be kept as brief as possible. Don't preach your announcements and announce your sermon! Finally, in giving instruction about offerings, my instruction has always been, "the less you say about money the better." I still believe that.

Saints need to be taught the grace of giving. That God loves a cheerful giver. That only that which is freely and willingly given from the heart will bring reward. And because of what the Bible says about the matter of giving, I personally like the box at the door best!