

The Half-Hearted King

Intro:

2 Chron 25 is the story of Amaziah - Joash, Amaziah's father, was saved from death by the high priest Jehoida and followed the Lord while Jehoida was alive. After the death of the high priest, Joash compromised and began worshipping other Gods. Even to the point of having Jehoida's son stoned to death for challenging Joash. Amaziah watched his father compromise with idols and even murder God's prophet. It is no wonder that it was said of Amaziah, "and he did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, yet not with a whole heart" (2 Chron 25:2).

Let's review the story: 2 Chron. 25

1. **The half-hearted person doesn't fully trust God** (v 5-9)
 - a. Worldly methods (hiring help) (v 6) - how often do we rely on our own schemes and ideas rather than asking God?
 - b. Concerned about money first and foremost instead of repenting (v 9) *"I cannot afford to do what is right as I will lose money..."*
 - c. **"The Lord is able to give you more than this..."** (v 9)*** Obedience always brings blessings. The greatest of all getting to know the unknowable God. A fuller, deeper, richer experience of Christ is better than anything we could ever give up!
2. **The half-hearted person get offended when things don't turn out like they want** (v 10-13)
 - a. Amaziah didn't like the consequences of his sin - death of innocent people
 - b. **We become offended when our dreams aren't fulfilled because they don't match God's!**
 - c. Oswald Chambers July 28th: *"We are apt to imagine that if Jesus Christ constrains us, and we obey Him, He will lead us to great success. We must never put our dreams of success as God's purpose for us; His purpose may be exactly the opposite. We have an idea that God is leading us to a particular end, a desired goal; He is not. The question of getting to a particular end is a mere incident. What we call the process, God calls the end."*

3. **The half-hearted person is an idolator** (v 14-16)
 - a. Becoming like the people around us (v 14)
 - b. Not living up to the identity we have in Christ
 - c. **“Because you have not listened...”** (v 16)

4. **The half-hearted person ultimately becomes defeated by their pride** (17-28)
 - a. **“Your heart has lifted you up in pride”** (v 19)
 - b. A half-hearted heart lifts itself up in pride thinking that God is not worthy of 100%
 - c. *Gal 6:7-8 Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.
8 For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.*

So, how can we apply this to our lives today?

Contrast the wholehearted King - King Josiah:

2 Chron 34:1-3 *Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem. 2 And he did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, and walked in the ways of David his father; and he did not turn aside to the right hand or to the left. 3 For in the eighth year of his reign, while he was yet a boy, he began to seek the God of David his father, and in the twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of the high places, the Asherim, and the carved and the metal images.*

Verse 27 **because your heart was tender and you humbled yourself before God when you heard his words against this place and its inhabitants, and you have humbled yourself before me and have torn your clothes and wept before me, I also have heard you, declares the Lord. (REPENTANCE)**

Verse 31-33 *And the king stood in his place and made a covenant before the Lord, to walk after the Lord and to keep his commandments and his testimonies and his statutes, with all his heart and all his soul, to perform the words of the covenant that were written in this book. 32 Then he made all who were present in Jerusalem and in Benjamin join in it. And the inhabitants of Jerusalem did according to the covenant of God, the God of*

their fathers. 33 And Josiah took away all the abominations from all the territory that belonged to the people of Israel and made all who were present in Israel serve the Lord their God. All his days they did not turn away from following the Lord, the God of their fathers.

Josiah is a forerunner of the ultimate whole-hearted King = King Jesus - we will never regret loving Jesus too much. When we meet him and see the wounds of love, the scars of sacrifice

Closing promise/challenge: Ezekiel 36:22-38

“Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord God: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations to which you came. 23 And I will vindicate the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, and which you have profaned among them. And the nations will know that I am the Lord, declares the Lord God, when through you I vindicate my holiness before their eyes. 24 I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land. 25 I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. 26 **And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.**[a] 28 You shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and you shall be my people, and I will be your God. 29 And I will deliver you from all your uncleannesses. And I will summon the grain and make it abundant and lay no famine upon you. 30 I will make the fruit of the tree and the increase of the field abundant, that you may never again suffer the disgrace of famine among the nations. 31 Then you will remember your evil ways, and your deeds that were not good, and you will loathe yourselves for your iniquities and your abominations. 32 It is not for your sake that I will act, declares the Lord God; let that be known to you. Be ashamed and confounded for your ways, O house of Israel.

33 “Thus says the Lord God: On the day that I cleanse you from all your iniquities, I will cause the cities to be inhabited, and the waste places shall be rebuilt. 34 And the land that was desolate shall be tilled, instead of being the desolation that it was in the sight of all who passed by. 35 And they will say, ‘This land that was

desolate has become like the garden of Eden, and the waste and desolate and ruined cities are now fortified and inhabited.' 36 Then the nations that are left all around you shall know that I am the Lord; I have rebuilt the ruined places and replanted that which was desolate. I am the Lord; I have spoken, and I will do it.

37 "Thus says the Lord God: This also I will let the house of Israel ask me to do for them: to increase their people like a flock. 38 Like the flock for sacrifices,[b] like the flock at Jerusalem during her appointed feasts, so shall the waste cities be filled with flocks of people. Then they will know that I am the Lord."

My son and my daughter, give me your heart (Prov. 23:26)