

The Measure of a Life

2 Kings 12

Text

Early Start (1-3)

Joash became king at the age of 7

Installed by the priesthood

All things Holy (4-16)

Desire to repair the temple

Entrusted to the priests but nothing happened for 23 years

Aged 30, Jehoash reforms the system and gets the work going

Lesson 1: Religious Corruption

Money, power, influence rather than the service of God.

Complacency.

Lesson 2: Administration is Ministry

To care for widows & orphans requires administration.

It requires hard work.

Your work is ministry.

Decisions and events in the church to serve others is ministry.

Ministry is practical and hands on.

Whether it is a conversation or changing a tire or baking cookies.

Acknowledge those in the church who serve (ministry)

Perhaps we should be wise to rename “deacons & elders” to servants.

Antagonists (17-18)

The expansion of the Aramean Empire

Joash pays tribute using the treasures of the Temple

Did Joash rob the temple?

Obvious pragmatism – in a way the temple saves Jerusalem.

It is a harsh reality of life

– not everything goes well, even for God’s people.

Lesson 3: People, not treasures.

Regrettable as it was to empty the temple,
that is not what God really wants.
See our church buildings today.
As wonderful as they are,
not one stone will be left on another.
I cannot say we will never have a building,
but never mistake a building for the church.

An Ignominious End (19-21)

Joash is assassinated by his own officials.
A sad end.
The risk of every King – the disappointment of others.
Gossip like daggers, disillusionment.

I too was once betrayed by those who were disappointed in me.
This too we must forgive and accept.
Make no one your enemy, but not everyone will be your friend.

The Measure of a Life

In the grand scheme, Joash is but one king in a long line.
The concern of the book of Kings to remember, not romanticize.
Life is hard, life is harsh and we are inconsistent, imperfect and ambiguous.
Joash was measured by a single verse.
Every King was measured by a single verse.
“Joash did what was right in the eyes of the LORD.”

We often measure ourselves by so many other ways & expectations.
Who do we live for?
Parents, children, society, friends, spouses of potential spouses, ourselves?
In the end there is only one measure for a life.
We live our lives, every moment and every day, before God.
We live within his grace despite ourselves.

Question: How are you affected by the measure of others?