

- 2) We must carefully prepare our ways every day on our knees before the Lord. Even godly men fail at this if they get careless. Years earlier, Joshua failed to do this and he made a BIG mistake. The Gibeonites pretended to be from a far country by wearing old clothes and carrying mouldy food. (Joshua 9:14) "*And the men took of their victuals, and asked not counsel at the mouth of the LORD.*" A few days later, they discovered that the Gibeonites were a nearby enemy.
- 3) Jotham mapped out his life before the LORD. He sought the Lord's direction and guidance before making a move. That is a very wise way to live.

b. God made him mighty

- 1) He did not seek to become mighty. Many kings sought to become mighty and they became their downfall.
- 2) Jotham became mighty because God blessed his spiritual preparation.
- 3) If you want God's blessing on your life, then every day prepare your ways on your knees before the Lord.
- 4) **Chorus:** *Let the Lord have his way, in your life every day. There's no peace, there's no rest, until the Lord has his way. Place your life in his hands. Rest securely in his plans. Let the Lord, let the Lord have his way.*

Conclusion: At least three things contributed to God being able to bless Jotham and make him a mighty king. 1) He had godly parents and chose to obey them. 2) He chose to do right in the sight of the Lord. 3) He prepared his ways before the Lord his God.

If you are a parent, are you actively seeking to be an example and guide to your children? Children, are you choosing to obey your parents? Do you each day choose to do right in the sight of the Lord, even when others do not? Do you daily prepare your ways on your knees before the Lord your God?

God wants to bless you mightily, but you must choose to live His way before He can.

Song: His Way with Thee - 367

Jotham's Clean Record

21 June 2020 PM - 2Chronicles 27:1-9 - Kings20 - Scott Childs

Introduction: Jotham, the son of King Uzziah began to reign when he was 25 years old and reigned for 16 years. He is one of the few kings of Judah who had a **clean record in the Bible**. Though he was a sinner like all men, the Bible records no sin laid against him.

God does not tell us how he died at age 41. Being a good king, why did he not live for a long time as did his father Uzziah who reigned 52 years? Perhaps Isaiah's words give us the answer. (Isaiah 55:8) "*For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.*"

Prophets during Jotham's reign included Hosea in Israel and Isaiah and Micah in Judah. They describe the deep-seated corruption that was in the land, yet Jotham did that which was right in the sight of the Lord (2Ch 27:2).

Transition: Jotham became mighty (2Ch 27:6). This evening I want us to focus our attention on three things that contributed to Jotham becoming mighty.

The first thing that contributed to Jotham becoming mighty was ...

1. He had godly parents and chose to obey them

a. His parents (v.1)

- 1) His father Uzziah had been a godly king for most of his 52-year reign. It was only near the end of his reign that he became proud and rebellious against God.
- 2) His mother's name also was Jerushah, the daughter of Zadok. Zadok was probably the high priest. Thus, his mother was likely a godly woman.

b. Their contribution

- 1) In a king's home tutors sometimes reared the children, but usually parents have a great daily influence on their children.
- 2) If you are a parent, your first and most important service in life is to rear your children so that they will choose to fear God. That is no small task.
 - a) I heard a preacher recently say that, "**children are**

God's little spies". That is so true. They know how you live when no one else is around. Your actions speak louder to them than your words.

- b) The book of Proverbs ought to be one of your main parenting manuals. Study it carefully. Every command or law given to a child must be lived, taught and enforced by the parent.
- c) Quality time with your children is good but it is no substitute for quantity time. Children need much one-on-one time with their parents to build trust, friendship, and communication.
- d) Developing character in the heart of a child takes **planning**, patience, repetition and discipline.
- e) One of the greatest failures of parents is waiting too long before they get serious about child training. Once the weeds of sinful self-will become deeply rooted, it is very difficult to pull them out.

📖 *Submitting to his godly parent's example and training contributed to Jotham becoming mighty.*

The second thing that contributed to Jotham becoming mighty was ...

2. He chose to do right in the sight of the LORD

a. He followed his father's good example (v.2)

- 1) He chose to do right in the sight of the LORD.
- 2) He did right according to all that his father had done.
- 3) Doing right in the sight of the Lord is never an accident. (Jeremiah 17:9) "*The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?*" (Ecclesiastes 7:20) "*For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.*" There are some nice people in our world and some who do right by man's standard. However, Jotham did right according to God's standard. That was a deliberate spiritual choice.

b. He avoided his father's failures

- 1) He did not enter into the temple to offer sacrifices as his father had foolishly done (v.2)
- 2) He did not follow the corrupt ways of the people. Sadly, the sins of idolatry that Solomon introduced 250 years

earlier were still pulling the hearts of God's people away from Him.

- 3) This is further evidence that Jotham chose to do right. Though he could not control the hearts of his people, he chose himself to do right. He also had learned from God's judgment of leprosy on his father's sin.
- 4) These are important principles for you and me. As sinners, we naturally do what is right in our own eyes. (Proverbs 16:25) "*There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.*" We too must choose to do right according to **God's** standard. We must choose to go against the flow of society if we are going to do right in God's sight. We must follow the examples of men like Jotham, Joshua & Caleb, Daniel & his three friends, and women like Ruth and Abigail.

📖 *Choosing to do right in the sight of the LORD contributed to Jotham becoming mighty.*

The third thing that contributed to Jotham becoming mighty was ...

3. He prepared his ways before the LORD

a. His preparation was purposeful.

- 1) When he prepared his ways before the LORD, he set his plans firmly in place by seeking and obeying God's direction. He learned what was right and he determined in his heart to obey God no matter what. The preacher Bob Jones Sr. used to thunder from his pulpit, "**Do right until the stars fall!**" We must prepare our ways.
- ✧ *When Melody was a pre-teen, her family attended an Independent Baptist Church and she began to grow spiritually. When her family stopped attending that church, she purposed in her heart to continue. Caring people from the church picked her up for the services. Over the years, she benefited much from the preaching, learned hundreds of Bible verses and after completing high school was challenged to attend Bible College to prepare to serve the Lord. I met Melody in Bible College. I am so thankful that as a teen she purposed in her heart to do right and keep attending that good church.*