

What Failing to Remember Kindness Does

Second Chronicles 23–24

Don Ruhl • Savage Street, Grants Pass, Oregon • January 23, In the year of our Lord Christ, 2022

Scripture Reader and Reading: Nash Crisp – Second Chronicles 22.10–12

Song Leader and Song Suggestions: Phil Joseph – No Suggestions

I. Second Chronicles 23.1–7 • Jehoiada Restores the King

23.1 In the seventh year Jehoiada strengthened himself, and made a covenant with the captains of hundreds... 3 Then all the assembly made a covenant with the king in the house of God. And he said to them, “Behold, the king’s son shall reign, as the LORD has said of the sons of David. 4 This is what you shall do: One-third of you entering on the Sabbath, of the priests and the Levites, shall be keeping watch over the doors; 5 one-third shall be at the king’s house; and one-third at the Gate of the Foundation. All the people shall be in the courts of the house of the LORD. 6 But let no one come into the house of the LORD except the priests and those of the Levites who serve. They may go in, for they are holy; but all the people shall keep the watch of the LORD. 7 And the Levites shall surround the king on all sides, every man with his weapons in his hand; and whoever comes into the house, let him be put to death. You are to be with the king when he comes in and when he goes out.”

A. Finally, strong in himself and

1. with the backing of forces necessary to right the wrongs in Judah,
2. Jehoiada goes to work.

B. He worked with other leaders,

1. the captains of hundreds, and
2. they gathered the Levites.

C. They made a covenant:

1. Acknowledging that a son of David should reign.
2. They divided into thirds
 - a) They would allow only Levites and priests to enter the house of God.
 - b) The Levites would surround the king and
 - (1) the Levites would have their weapons at the ready.
 - (2) The order was

- (a) that whoever entered the house
- (b) the Levites would kill, because
 - i) only the Levites and priests were qualified to be there.
 - ii) They would escort the king.

D. For this all to have come together,

- 1. Jehoiada must have been talking with many people for a while, and
- 2. many people would have been unhappy with what Athaliah had done.

II. Second Chronicles 23.8–11 • Long Live the King

A. Everyone followed Jehoiada because

- 1. they saw him as a strong leader, and
- 2. he was leading them to do what is right.

B. They timed it to do it when the priests made their daily shift.

C. Appropriately, Jehoiada gave to his small army the spears and shields

- 1. that belonged to David,
- 2. which were kept in the house of God.

D. Jehoiada then stationed everyone in the best way possible

- 1. that they might protect the king and
- 2. that he might be able to move about freely.

E. Finally, they installed Joash as the king:

11 And they brought out the king's son, put the crown on him, gave him the Testimony [His own copy of Scripture, DR], and made him king. Then Jehoiada and his sons anointed him, and said, "Long live the king!"

F. Everyone risked his life to do what they believed was right.

III. Second Chronicles 23.12–13 • Athaliah Makes Accusations of Treason

12 Now when Athaliah heard the noise of the people running and praising the king, she came to the people in the temple of the LORD. 13 When she looked,

there was the king standing by his pillar at the entrance; and the leaders and the trumpeters were by the king. All the people of the land were rejoicing and blowing trumpets, also the singers with musical instruments, and those who led in praise. So Athaliah tore her clothes and said, “Treason! Treason!”

- A. The six years that passed since she killed Joash’s brothers,
- B. had not softened her heart.
 - 1. You would think that she would have regretted killing her grandsons, and
 - 2. that seeing one alive would bring the grandmotherly instincts out.

IV. Second Chronicles 23.14–15 • They Kill Athaliah

14 And Jehoiada the priest brought out the captains of hundreds who were set over the army, and said to them, “Take her outside under guard, and slay with the sword whoever follows her.” For the priest had said, “Do not kill her in the house of the LORD.” 15 So they seized her; and she went by way of the entrance of the Horse Gate into the king’s house, and they killed her there.

- A. You could not reason with this woman.
- B. Therefore, they had to execute her immediately, but
 - 1. not in the house of the Lord.
 - 2. The house of the Lord had specific purposes.

V. Second Chronicles 23.16–19 • They Destroy Idols and Do Things as David Put in Order

16 Then Jehoiada made a covenant between himself, the people, and the king, that they should be the LORD’S people. 17 And all the people went to the temple of Baal, and tore it down. They broke in pieces its altars and images, and killed Mattan the priest of Baal before the altars. 18 Also Jehoiada appointed the oversight of the house of the LORD to the hand of the priests, the Levites, whom David had assigned in the house of the LORD, to offer the burnt offerings of the LORD, as it is written in the Law of Moses, with rejoicing and with singing, as it was established by David. 19 And he set the gatekeepers at the gates of the house of the LORD, so that no one who was in any way unclean should enter.

- A. They were already the Lord's people, but
 - 1. they had to reaffirm it in their hearts.
 - 2. They did not belong to Baal, because
 - a) Baal had not created them, and
 - b) Baal was a dead and false god.
- B. Therefore, they did the next logical and biblical thing:
 - 1. They destroyed the temple of Baal and everything associated with it.
 - 2. They executed the priest of Baal.
- C. It also logically and biblically followed
 - 1. that they would start up the sacrifices of the Lord again, for
 - 2. it was stopping to do the biblical things that got them in trouble endlessly.

VI. Second Chronicles 23.20–21 • Peace When the Wicked Die

20 ...they went through the Upper Gate to the king's house, and set the king on the throne of the kingdom. 21 So all the people of the land rejoiced; and the city was quiet, for they had slain Athaliah with the sword.

- A. Having done everything right to restore the true worship of Jehovah God,
 - 1. they then took this 7-year old boy and
 - 2. put him on the throne of the kingdom.
- B. They rejoiced that a son of David was on the throne again, but
 - 1. they also rejoiced
 - 2. that Athaliah was dead.
 - a) If she was power-hungry enough to slay her grandsons,
 - b) you can imagine what her reign must have been like.
 - (1) Therefore, the people were glad that she was gone:

**10 When it goes well with the righteous, the city rejoices;
And when the wicked perish, there is jubilation.**

– **Proverbs 11.10**

**12 When the righteous rejoice, there is great glory;
But when the wicked arise, men hide themselves.**

– **Proverbs 28.12**

**28 When the wicked arise, men hide themselves;
But when they perish, the righteous increase.**

– **Proverbs 28.28**

VII. Second Chronicles 24.1–3 • Joash Did What Was Right...Sort of

24.1 Joash was seven years old when he became king, and he reigned forty years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Zibiah of Beersheba. 2 Joash did what was right in the sight of the LORD all the days of Jehoiada the priest...

A. Forty years is a long time.

1. My ministry is now over 41 years.
2. Just looking at photos from that time
 - a) remind me of how long ago 1980 was.
 - b) If you are not sure how long ago that was,
 - (1) 1980 was 42 years ago.
 - (2) From 1980 to the end of World War II was 35 years!

B. Joash only lived 47 years!

C. Verse 2 makes you think.

1. Ezra wrote that Joash did what was right in the sight of the Lord, but
2. added that he did what was right all the days of Jehoiada the priest.

VIII. Second Chronicles 24.4–6 • Joash Restored What Was Broken

4 Now it happened after this that Joash set his heart on repairing the house of the LORD. 5 Then he gathered the priests and the Levites, and said to them, “Go out to the cities of Judah, and gather from all Israel money to repair the house of your God from year to year, and see that you do it quickly.” However the Levites did not do it quickly. 6 So the king called Jehoiada the chief priest, and said to him, “Why have you not required the Levites to bring in from Judah and from Jerusalem the collection, according to the commandment of Moses the servant of the LORD and of the assembly of Israel, for the tabernacle of witness?”

A. This young man had a zeal for God’s house.

1. He had a zeal worth imitating.
2. Remember that Jesus had a zeal for God’s house:

17 Then His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up.”

– John 2.17

3. Jesus was preventing corruption of God’s House.

B. Joash was restoring the place of worship.

1. It was the house of God and
2. that meant certain things happened there.
 - a) Apparently the neglect and damage was bad enough
 - b) that they could not fulfill those functions.

C. He saw the importance of getting those things done.

1. Therefore, he held the priest, Jehoiada, accountable for the collection.
2. As king, this is what Joash was supposed to do.
 - a) Yes, Jehoiada the chief priest should have been busying doing this, but
 - b) he was not so the next higher authority had to fill in.

IX. Second Chronicles 24.7–10 • Collecting for the House of God

7 For the sons of Athaliah, that wicked woman, had broken into the house of

God, and had also presented all the dedicated things of the house of the LORD to the Baals. 8 Then at the king's command they made a chest, and set it outside at the gate of the house of the LORD. 9 And they made a proclamation throughout Judah and Jerusalem to bring to the LORD the collection that Moses the servant of God had imposed on Israel in the wilderness...

A. In verse 7, Ezra let us know the problem.

1. The sons of Athaliah had robbed the house of God of its worship items,
2. presenting them to the Baals!

B. Jehoiada remedied the financial part and

1. made a place for people to drop their contributions,
2. a contribution that the Lord had already said needed to be given.

C. The leaders in Judah and the people rejoiced to see a king taking such action.

X. Second Chronicles 24.11–14 • Making the House of God What It Should Be

11 So it was, at that time, when the chest was brought to the king's official by the hand of the Levites, and when they saw that there was much money, that the king's scribe and the high priest's officer came and emptied the chest, and took it and returned it to its place. Thus they did day by day, and gathered money in abundance...

A. Judah gave liberally.

1. They had to empty the chest daily.
2. The king and the chief priest gave the funds to
 - a) masons,
 - b) carpenters,
 - c) iron and bronze workers.

B. Those workers did not keep the funds that were left over, but

1. brought the funds to King Joash and Jehoiada the chief priest.
2. They used the funds to make the rest of the vessels and such
 - a) that the priests needed to do their work in the house of God.

b) Therefore, burnt offerings continue during the days of Jehoiada.

XI. Second Chronicles 24.15–16 • The Honorable Man Jehoiada

15 But Jehoiada grew old and was full of days, and he died; he was one hundred and thirty years old when he died. 16 And they buried him in the City of David among the kings, because he had done good in Israel, both toward God and His house.

A. The Lord allowed Jehoiada to live for 130 years

1. that he might establish the king and
2. restore all the work of the house of God.

B. The kingdom of Judah thought highly of this man of God and

1. honored him by burying him in the city of David,
2. in particular among the kings of Judah!

C. Now, watch happens next.

1. What happens next just seems unbelievable, but
2. believe that it did happen.

XII. Second Chronicles 24.17–19 • Turning from God to Idols

17 Now after the death of Jehoiada the leaders of Judah came and bowed down to the king. And the king listened to them. 18 Therefore they left the house of the LORD God of their fathers, and served wooden images and idols; and wrath came upon Judah and Jerusalem because of their trespass. 19 Yet He sent prophets to them, to bring them back to the LORD; and they testified against them, but they would not listen.

A. Why? How could they do such a thing?

1. The leaders rejoiced when the house of God was restored.
 - a) They paid for the restoration gladly.
 - b) How then could they think of approaching the king?
 - c) What was it about the king that they thought he might listen to them?

2. I would assume that Joash thought highly of Jehoiada and his work.
 - a) What was Joash thinking?
 - b) He had forgotten the good Jehoiada had done for him.

B. Verse 18 just should not have been.

1. What moved them to forsake the glorious temple that Solomon built and
 - a) that they had just restored?
 - b) What gets into people?
2. How do you explain these leaders serving wooden images and idols?

C. The Lord sought to bring them back,

1. using prophets to do so, but
2. unbelievably they would not listen.

XIII.Second Chronicles 24.20 • Good Question?

20 Then the Spirit of God came upon Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest, who stood above the people, and said to them, “Thus says God: ‘Why do you transgress the commandments of the LORD, so that you cannot prosper? Because you have forsaken the LORD, He also has forsaken you.’”

A. The son of Jehoiada must have been grieved deeply

1. to see Judah so quickly
2. deny the work of his father.

B. He had a good question, which I have asked tonight:

1. Why did they transgress the commandments of the Lord?
2. Did they not know that their national prosperity was connected to keeping the commandments of the Lord?

XIV.Second Chronicles 24.21 • Joash Becomes Evil

21 So they conspired against him, and at the command of the king they stoned him with stones in the court of the house of the LORD.

- A. Did you see what Ezra wrote?
- B. King Joash commanded the execution of
 - 1. the son of the man who saved his life,
 - 2. protected him afterwards,
 - 3. made him king, and
 - 4. did restoration work that Joash wanted done!

XV. Second Chronicles 24.22 • What Failing to Remember Kindness Does

22 Thus Joash the king did not remember the kindness which Jehoiada his father had done to him, but killed his son; and as he died, he said, “The LORD look on it, and repay!”

- A. King Joash did not remember the kindness of Jehoiada.
 - 1. Joash was guilty of killing the son of a man of God,
 - 2. who was also a man of God.
- B. His last words as he died
 - 1. was for the Lord to look on what was going on, and
 - 2. to repay his killers for what they were doing.

XVI. Second Chronicles 24.23–24 • Judah’s Larger Army Loses to Syria’s Smaller Army

23 So it happened in the spring of the year that the army of Syria came up against him; and they came to Judah and Jerusalem, and destroyed all the leaders of the people from among the people, and sent all their spoil to the king of Damascus. 24 For the army of the Syrians came with a small company of men; but the LORD delivered a very great army into their hand, because they had forsaken the LORD God of their fathers. So they executed judgment against Joash.

- A. Usually, it was Israel with the smaller force,
- B. going against the larger army of the world’s super power.
 - 1. However, the Lord allowed the smaller force to defeat Judah’s large army,

2. which earlier numbered over 1 million.

XVII. Second Chronicles 24.25 • Joash's Servants Kill Him

25 And when they had withdrawn from him (for they left him severely wounded), his own servants conspired against him because of the blood of the sons of Jehoiada the priest, and killed him on his bed. So he died. And they buried him in the City of David, but they did not bury him in the tombs of the kings.

- A. Joash reaped as he had sown.
- B. The people did not honor him, for
 1. although they buried him in the city of David,
 - a) which was an honor, but
 2. they would not put him among the other kings.

XVIII. Second Chronicles 24.26–27 • The Servants

26 These are the ones who conspired against him: Zabad the son of Shimeath the Ammonitess, and Jehozabad the son of Shimrith the Moabitess. 27 Now concerning his sons, and the many oracles about him, and the repairing of the house of God, indeed they are written in the annals of the book of the kings. Then Amaziah his son reigned in his place.

- A. We will see what kind of king his son would become.