

## **DOING RIGHT WHILE MENTORED**

(Obeying Because We Have To, Not Because We Want To)

II Kings 12: 1-3, II Chronicles 24: 1-3, and 15-19

Message # 40 in our Elijah-Elisha Series – Pastor Richard P. Carlson

A.W. Tozer in his book, “The Dangers of a Shallow Faith,” wrote on page 205, these vital words. “The great deterrent to victorious Christian living is the idea that once we accept Jesus Christ as Savior and believe that John 3:16 is all there is to it, our life now is on automatic pilot and we can just sit back and enjoy the ride. This is the source of a great deal of disillusionment that leads to discouragement in the Christian life. There is no such thing as automatic pilot in our Christian experience; every step is an operation of faith that will be fiercely contested by the enemy of our soul. This kind of automatic pilot thinking leads to spiritual lethargy. Breaking out from the tyranny of spiritual lethargy, whatever the cost, should be the number-one priority of every Christian.”

In Matthew 7: 24-27, Jesus finished His “Sermon on The Mount,” with powerful words. He said, “Everyone then who hears these words of Mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.” Jesus spoke of two very different foundations. The one was solid, built on rock, able to stand on its own and endure any type of trial. But the other house was built on sand. The house built on sand looked a lot like the house built on the rock. It must have looked very attractive, plenty of bedrooms with walk-in closets; a modern kitchen; a screened in porch, a huge family room with a huge television screen. This attractive house was marvelous until a storm came. The weak foundation was immediately exposed, and the house was swept away.

How strong is your faith? Are you being propped up right now by your parents, your spouse, your pastors, or a godly mentor? When you are completely on your own and tough times come, how do you react? What happens when you go off to college? What decisions do you make when you don’t have a large crowd of Christians calling you in the right direction? Today, before we share the Lord’s Supper, we are going to study the life of king Joash – the king who came to the throne at the young age of 7 and he ruled for 40 years over Judah. His life was sadly broken into 2 halves. His early reign looks quite strong under the spiritual guidance of his wise uncle, the high priest Jehoiada, who lived to be 130. But after Jehoiada’s death, king Joash showed his true colors and turned away from the Lord big time. Did he lose his faith, or did he have true faith while he was being

mentored? God knows! Rather than answer that question, I leave that question for you all to think about. God knew, whether Jehoiada was fooled, along with his wife, Jehosheba, or whether Joash was sincerely trusting God as a young man. Whatever happened, king Joash was unable to strongly form any of his own godly convictions and live them out once Jehoiada was out of the picture. When faced with princes in Judah who longed to go back to worshipping idols, Joash caved in immediately. II Chronicles 24: 17 states, “Now after the death of Jehoiada, the princes of Judah came and paid homage to the king. The picture is they came and flattered him with their bowing and showing obeisance. Then the king listened to them. And they abandoned the house of the Lord, the God of their fathers, and served the Asherim and the idols.” Before we take the sacred elements today, representing the broken body and the shed blood of Jesus, let’s examine four truths that revolve around the whole subject of shepherding, mentoring, teaching, training, parenting, fostering, adopting, and discipling.

**WHEN WE ARE BEING MENTORED OR WHEN WE ARE MENTORING, WE ALL NEED INSTRUCTION IN DIFFERENT AREAS OF OUR LIVES.**

(I.) Notice I Kings 12: 2. “And Jehoash/Joash did what was right in the eyes of the Lord all his days, because, or in which Jehoiada, the priest **instructed** him.” Yet when we compare this text with II Chronicles, we realize that when Jehoida died, Joash went a different direction. As a little nursing one-year old boy, Joash had no clue how much he needed mentoring, parented, taught, trained, disciplined, and shepherded. The word instructed in verse 2 is **yarah**. It means to aim an arrow or to point out in teaching with your finger. It means pointing out the facts and the truth and the way that we should go. We all know Proverbs 22: 6, “Train up a child in the way he should go. Even when he is old, he will not depart from it.” Let’s become exceedingly specific and practical.

As a little boy growing up in the home of Jehoiada and Jehosheba, doubtless Joash’s aunt and uncle mentored and parented and disciplined and trained Joash as godly parents should, even though Joash at the time, knew nothing of his need. There are times we all need mentored and we have no clue we have the need, just like Joash was, as a little boy. But when Joash became king, and he ruled 40 years, many of those years, still under the tutelage and mentoring of Jehoiada the high priest, Joash knew he still was clueless to begin with on how to be a king. Jehoiada was there to school him, to mentor him and to point out the facts and the truth of what was needed from the king by his people. As we read between the lines, the implication is clear that Joash slowly must have begun to have inner turmoil in his mind and heart about Jehoiada’s presence in his life. There is a good chance that Jehoiada saw some of the weak character flaws in Joash, and that he may have often tried to correct those flaws. Perhaps, those moments were not always easy moments for Jehoiada or Joash. Joash proved after Jehoiada died, that he wanted his own way and that he didn’t want to follow the earnest mentoring of his uncle.

Many times, as adults, we need mentored. We may start well, but like a person undergoing therapy on a broken leg, the therapy at first may seem wise, but soon the therapy hurts badly. Then, it is easy to throw out the exercises and to leave the therapist. One of the biggest reasons we may walk away from needed mentoring is that it takes true humility to be restored and mentored to a full restoration.

Galatians 6: 1 declares, “Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual or mature, should restore him or her in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you also be tempted.” There are many believers like Joash, who endure mentoring, all the while waiting to break loose and sin again.

Many people are sentenced by a judge to attend classes, programs designed to help them overcome addiction. Enduring those sentences helps none at all, if during the classes, they are planning their next escapade when the mentoring classes are over. Receiving mentoring humbly as earnest learners, is what makes mentoring work. To you who are mentors, know many people wish to be mentors who want to do their own thing as a mentor. To be a godly mentor, you must agree with God’s will, and what He points out is the need in that person’s life. Had Jehoiada and Jehosheba tried to improve on God’s plan, they would not have been effective. So often mentors refuse to agree with God about the need in a person’s life, or if they agree with God about their need, they simply refuse to be a part of meeting that need. When Paul refused to take John Mark on his second missionary journey because John Mark departed in Pamphylia, Barnabas agreed with Paul’s assessment of what John Mark did, but he did not deny John Mark further service. Barnabas rather, took John Mark, mentored him, and gave him a second chance. That had to be months of intense mentoring that paid off. Before Paul was martyred in Rome, he called for John Mark’s help. If you see God has revealed to someone you love, that they need mentoring in some area, and you agree with God’s assessment, then accept God’s full authority as yours, to mentor. Jesus before He ascended said in Matthew 28: 16-20 “Teach them all things whatsoever the Lord has commanded you.” Do not withdraw or be afraid to mentor. If you are being mentored, and you are planning your next escapade, have the grace to confess your sin, or your enduring of mentoring will be useless. Secondly,

**WHEN WE ARE BEING MENTORED OR WHEN WE ARE MENTORING, STOPPING SHORT OF FULLY FOLLOWING GOD IS TRAGIC. (II.)**

Notice II Kings 12: 3. We read, “Nevertheless, the high places were not taken away; the people continued to sacrifice and make offerings on the high places.” Now I don’t know all the reasons this happened, but we must not lay the problem at the door of Jehoiada. Why? Joash as a king for 40 years, was responsible for his choices. Turn to II Chronicles 24: 15-19. Listen carefully. “But Jehoiada grew old and full of days, and (he) died. He was 130 years old at his death. And they buried him in the city of David among the kings, because he had done good in Israel, and toward God and his house. Now after the death of Jehoiada the princes of Judah

came and paid homage to the king. Then the king listened to them. And they abandoned the house of the LORD, the God of their fathers, and served the Asherim and the idols. And wrath came upon Judah and Jerusalem for this guilt of theirs. Yet God sent prophets among them to bring them back to the LORD. These testified against them, but they would not pay attention.”

Joash agreed to get rid of the Baals as a mentored young king, but without Jehoiada present, a little bit of idolatry didn't seem like a big thing to Joash. To have God's qualified blessing—"You have done well while being mentored; nevertheless, you have not been right in forsaking known sins in your life," that is an awful place to be. I ask you today, "What small sins are you putting up with in your life? What small sins are you justifying? Are these little sins, bitterness, refusal to respect and obey authority, watching movies that have pornography in them, lying—just little tiny lies to control good outcomes, or drinking enough at home to be tipsy when you have other couples over? Where are you playing the dangerous game of how close to the line you can get? How far are you pushing the envelope with God? God saw the real Joash after Jehoiada died, and He began to pour out His wrath upon Judah and Jerusalem for this guilt of theirs—allowing idolatry to go on in all the high places. We can't consort with spiritual idolatry and still claim to worship God in spirit and in truth. Refusing to deal with known sin in our lives whether we are mentoring or being mentored is as deadly to our lives as leaving one rotten peach in a full bushel of perfect peaches. Three days and you can forget canning peaches.

Let's think about the common problem in mentoring—Joash appeared to have it. That problem is wanting out of mentoring early or as a mentor, relinquishing a mentoring task that is mostly done, because continuing is difficult. To be satisfied with compromise and sin, receiving God's partial or His qualified commendation is not enough. Many parents seeking to shepherd their sons or daughters, virtually give up correcting or disciplining them because they are 8 years old, or 12 or 16, or 21—some qualified age. Every parent, we trust, tries to do their best. Speaking of discipline in the home, the writer in Hebrews 12: 7-8, says, "It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons." Then in Hebrews 12:10, speaking of parents, the writer adds, "For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but God disciplines us for our good that we may share His holiness." Don't have your children in your home and leave them without discipline. Certainly, you may say, a son or daughter away at college, is beyond parental discipline. Right? Should we ignore our high school and college sons and daughters when they step out of biblical boundaries of love, respect, honesty, and obedience? Do we give them our qualified commendation and ignore the results of letting disobedience go, because someone told us, "You can't

discipline your son or daughter, after they reach a certain age.” God doesn’t change His holy word to agree with our culture. Proverbs 19: 15, is clear, “Discipline your son/daughter while there is hope, and do not desire their death.” Is there no hope for college students? All seven of our sons and daughters, received biblical discipline while they were in college. Don’t stop short in mentoring! Thirdly,

**WHEN WE ARE BEING MENTORED OR WHEN WE ARE MENTORING, REPLACING GODLY COUNSEL WITH MAN’S COUNSEL RUINS US.**

(III.) Notice II Chronicles 24: 17. “Now after the death of Jehoiada, the princes of Judah came and paid homage to the king. Then the king listened to them.” Looking for guidance in all the wrong places and for all the wrong reasons from all the wrong people will bring our undoing. Leadership transition periods are very vulnerable times. In a relay race, the most critical part of the relay race is always, always, always, the passing of the baton. This passing of the baton of our lives of faith and obedience to God should be at the apex of our legacy prayers. Are we passing on to the next generation the absolute necessity for faith in the Word alone and obedience to God’s revealed revelation? The enemy of our souls knows that every time someone steps down from a position, what is most important is not that we find a new leader, but what we do and how we do it, in the transition period, before the passing of the baton?

These princes flattered king Joash and easily changed his shallow heart. One of the sins many Christian people use for advantage is flattery. If we speak affirmingly to another believer to their face, and speak behind their back in the very opposite way, we must get out of the mentoring business, until we repent. You can’t be a godly mentor and double-speak. Paul says in Galatians 6: 7-8, “Be not deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. 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.” These officials of Judah sensed this was their moment to push through a new agenda for Judah. Joash was finally on his own, without Jehoiada. Joash did not have the same inner value system, or the same discernment antenna. Joash allowed these flattering princes of Judah to become his replaced mentors and counselors, taking Jehoiada’s place, and it was to his ruin. No matter how much godly influence is around us, it all comes back down to our own personal choice. Should we try to argue with God someday, He will doubtless remind us, “I gave you a godly mentor, a Barnabas, a Jehoiada, and you chose yourself to go astray.” Fourthly,

**WHEN WE ARE BEING MENTORED OR WHEN WE ARE MENTORING, THE MAIN ISSUE IS SURRENDERING TO GOD’S PLAN FOR US IV.)**

Go back with me and think about II Kings 12: 2-3. And Jehoash/Joash did what was right in the eyes of the LORD all his days, in which Jehoiada the priest instructed him. Nevertheless, the high places were not taken away; the people continued to

sacrifice and make offerings on the high places.” If you are called to shepherd, to mentor, to foster, to parent, to disciple, to teach, or to train, in any way, consider one matter carefully. Has God placed you in a person’s life, knowing you are the only possible mentor He can use to meet their need at this time? Not every need means if you know about it, that is your call. But if God shows you as He showed Mordecai, as Esther’s uncle, to take her as his daughter, Esther 2: 15, you may live to challenge your Esther to save your nation. Mordecai said to Queen Esther, “Who knows whether you have not attained royalty for such a time as this?” Stepping up to the plate when God calls you can be His means to rewrite history.

I come to you, mentors and those needing mentored with some final and thoughtful questions. Ponder with me on the issue of surrendering to being mentored or to becoming a mentor. (1) Who would have mentored John Mark if Barnabas had ignored or denied the call of God? Acts 16: 37. Mentoring is filling a void and sometimes this is filling a void no one else can fill. (2) What if Mary, the mother of Jesus had ignored Jesus’ call to her from the cross to behold her son, speaking of His disciple, John? What if John would have ignored Jesus call to behold his mother, speaking of Mary. No. From that hour, John took Mary as his mother into his own household. John 19: 25-27. (3) What if Paul, seeing the void in the life of the young son of Eunice, the grandson of Lois, had ignored the role God asked for him to play in Timothy’s life, coming to call him as a spiritual daddy, “Timothy, my beloved son, my beloved child? II Timothy 1: 2, 5. (4) What if the mother of Alexander and Rufus, the wife of Simon the Cyrene, what if she would have been intimidated by the apostle Paul and told the Lord it was not her place to mother him? What if there were no Romans 16: 13 in the Bible saying, Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord; also, his mother, who has been a mother to me as well?” (5) What if Jeshosheba had ignored or denied God’s call for her to steal little baby boy Joash from the royal nursery from his planned destruction by queen mother, Athaliah? What if the high priest Jehoiada had ignored the call to mentor even this grown up king as long as he was alive—until he was 130 years old? What if he had told the Lord, “I’m too old to be a mentor!?”

What if you pass over, ignore, minimize, or deny God’s call for you to be mentored or to become a mentor? Today, if you hear God’s mentoring call, harden not your heart. Receive or be God’s hope if He calls you. I close with these strong words: While there is hope, to shepherd a heart, while there is hope, will you depart? While there is hope, to discipline, will you step up and be God’s hand? While there is hope, to teach and train, while there is hope, will you refrain? While there is hope, to mentor now, while there is hope, will you bow out? While God is knocking at your door, will you obey, will you restore? If you agree training’s a must, will you fight God, or will you trust? Will you repent, will you confess? Will you surrender; will you say “Yes?” I love you all. Amen.