

Leaving a Legacy

Introduction

We all know that we are going to die. If you are older, you may give more thought to death, but the young realize this is a reality as they see people who are their age who pass away. Depending on your personality you may have made plans for your funeral. You might know where you are going to be buried, have a casket picked out, and know who you want to preach the funeral.

Useless you are very young, it is probably safe to say that none of us here will be alive in 100 years. No matter your age, it is probably very safe bet that none of us will be on this earth in 150 years. The question is when we die, how will we be remembered?

I am not talking about what will be said at our funeral. I have been to several funerals that I have wondered if the person who spoke even knew the person. Virtues are sometimes invented and people are talked about in glowing terms. I am talking about what type of legacy will be remembered about us when we are no longer alive.

Joram/Jehoram, king of Judah (848-841 BC)

- ❖ 2 Kings 8:16-24
- ❖ 2 Chron 21:1-20
- ❖ His wife is daughter of Ahab (2 Kgs 8:18; 2 Chron 21:6; see 2 Chron 18:1)
- ❖ Probably Athaliah (2 Kgs 8:26; 2 Chron 22:2)

What type of legacy does Joram/Jehoram and Athaliah (husband and wife; king and queen) leave?

1. Legacy of Joram/Jehoram

- ❖ Father is Jehoshaphat who is a righteous king
- ❖ Co-reignite with father (2 Kgs 8:16)
- ❖ Kills brothers so no competition to throne (2 Chron 21:4)
- ❖ Lead Judah in the sins of the house of Ahab (2 Chron 21:6, 13)
- ❖ Worship at the high places (2 Chron 21:11)
- ❖ Lost power and influence because of sin (2 Chron 21:10)
- ❖ Elijah writes letter of rebuke (2 Chron 21:12-15)
- ❖ Dies painful death (2 Chron 21:18-19)

a) Murder

- Kills brothers so no competition to throne (2 Chron 21:4)

He will do anything to stay in power. He killed his brothers who were better than him (2 Chron 21:13).

b) Revolt

- Edom revolts (2 Kgs 8:20-22; 2 Chron 21:8-10)
- Libnah revolts (2 Chron 21:10)
- Philistines and Arabs (2 Chron 21:16-17)

Ironically the one who killed his brothers to make sure he stayed in power experienced a loss of power and peace because of his sin.

c) Idolatry

- Lead Judah in the sins of the house of Ahab (2 Chron 21:6, 13)
- Worship at the high places (2 Chron 21:11)

d) Legacy

- 2 Chron 21:19: No fire (i.e. no reason to honor him)
- 2 Chron 21:20: No one was sad when he died

If you were living during this time and you had to break the news to others that King Joram/Jehoram died there would have been no one who would have even pretended to be upset. They did not care. They see no reason to honor him and no one is sorrowful that he has died.

2. Legacy of Athaliah (841-835 BC)

- ❖ 2 Kings 11:1-21
- ❖ 2 Chron 22:10-23:21
- ❖ Granddaughter of Omri (2 Kgs 8:26; 2 Chron 22:2)
- ❖ Son Ahaziah becomes king of Judah (2 Chron 22:1-2)
- ❖ She counseled him to walk wickedly (2 Chron 22:3)
- ❖ When Ahaziah dies, she kills grandchildren to become queen (2 Kgs 11:1; 2 Chron 22:10)
- ❖ Only queen Judah had
- ❖ Treason (2 Kgs 11:14; 2 Chron 23:13)
- ❖ Executed (2 Kgs 11:15-16; 2 Chron 23:15-16)

a) Murder

- Kills own grandsons to obtain throne (2 Kgs 11:1; 2 Chron 22:10)
- She will do anything to obtain power. She killed her own grandchildren so she could be in power for a little while.

b) Evil

- She counseled her son to walk wickedly (2 Chron 22:3)
- She seems to want to influence those around her to engage in evil.

c) Legacy

- 2 Kings 11:20; 2 Chron 23:21: Joy and peace accompany her death
- Prov 11:10: When wicked die, righteous rejoice

To be honest we know very little about her rule. Most of the focus of the Biblical text is explaining how one of her grandsons survived and then was placed on the throne at age 7 (2 Kgs 11:21). But her death brings joy and peace. It is hard to imagine the turmoil she caused during her 6 year rule.

LESSONS

What are some lessons we can take away from this husband and wife disaster of a team?

1) Quest for power

We are often encouraged to obtain power in our modern world. We need to get high ranking positions in every area of life. No one will remember your position of power but they will remember if we served others or focused on our own needs.

No one glorifies Joram/Jehoram and Athaliah because they reached the top of their society. They remember they were heartless. The path to carving out a godly legacy will not be achieved because you gained a position of power or prominence. It will be found in the way we treat others. This husband and wife were willing to kill anyone if it meant they got a little power.

The path to leaving a godly legacy will not be by following a path the world views as good. It will be in following Jesus. He had power, but he sacrificed himself willingly. He left a legacy of obedience to the Father. Romans 5:19!

Jesus served the lowly. Jesus took time for the rejects:

- ❖ Children (Mt 19:13-16)
- ❖ Blind man (Mk 10:46-52)

2) What you promote

People may not remember much about your life, but they will remember what you promote. There is little details given to Joram/Jehoram and Athaliah's reign. But we are told they promoted sin, idolatry, and wickedness. Things that we promote are remembered by those who knew us. Have you ever heard stories where people share how others encouraged them to do something. We often forget the details of people's lives, but we remember the things they stood for and what was dearest to their heart.

What are we promoting?

What is important to us?

What is dearest to our heart?

3) Sad Picture

How sad to hear of someone's death and be indifferent to the news. How sad to hear someone has passed away and it bring joy to so many others. These two left a bad legacy. What legacy will we leave? What a wasted life.

Will anyone miss our wisdom?

Will anyone miss our encouragement?

Will anyone miss our example?

Will anyone miss our light (Mt 5:13-16)?