



Lesson 5: Decisions that Destroy (2 Chronicles 18)

Last time we were together we looked at the second recorded revival in 2 Chronicles under the leadership of King Jehoshaphat. As we continue to follow the life of Jehoshaphat we see that he becomes, like many of us, a study in contrasts. At first Jehoshaphat demonstrates how to _____ a revival (chapter 17), but then he changes course and demonstrates how to hinder and even _____ a revival (chapter 18).

As Jehoshaphat acquired more earthly possessions he allowed them to cloud his judgement and he became careless in his relationships with God and others. He made three bad decisions that would destroy his godly dedication. His acts are not only condemned by God, they are also seen as the root of far-reaching consequences made all too clear by the series of disasters that followed.

YOU WILL DESTROY GODLY DEDICATION WITH WRONG FRIENDS

A. Wrong friends will destroy your _____ (v. 1)

Jehoshaphat *"joined affinity with Ahab"* by uniting his son with Ahab's daughter.

- _____ - Son of Jehoshaphat and member of the house of David.
- _____ - Daughter of Ahab and Jezebel and member of the house of Omri

This alliance eventually resulted in an attempt to exterminate the dynasty of David and the official paganizing of Judah. This same daughter of Ahab slaughter her one grandchildren so as to insure the throne for herself.

B. Wrong friends will destroy your _____ (v. 2-3)

Jehoshaphat's true interest should have been in staying away from Ahab. Instead he travels north and proclaims to Ahab, *"I am as thou art, and my people as thy people."*

In nothing is it more needful to show wariness and wisdom than in your choice of _____; a mistake here means bitter disappointment, unimaginable misery, and in all likelihood, spiritual deterioration if not positive _____.

YOU WILL DESTROY GODLY DEDICATION BY _____ TO WRONG _____

A. Listening to the _____ (v. 5)

In response to Jehoshaphat's request to ask the Lord what they should do Ahab sends for _____ prophets. These counselors were prophets, not of Jehovah, but of the calves introduced by Jeroboam. Not being in a just relationship with God they could not speak Jehovah's mind. Speaking lies to the two kings they told them God had said to go to battle.

B. Rejecting God's _____ (v. 6-7)

Jehoshaphat was not satisfied with the answer from the false prophets. He urged Ahab to ask a true prophet so Ahab sent for the prophet _____. Smitten by priests and threatened with prison this true prophet of God tells Ahab and Jehoshaphat that if they go to battle it will end in destruction. But Jehoshaphat had ventured in too much and gone too far, he was ensnared and drawn along and now he was prepared to reject God's prophet.

YOU WILL DESTROY GODLY DEDICATION WITH THE WRONG _____

In this chapter we are really tracing the false steps of a good king. Jehoshaphat had lost his way and lost track of the ultimate goal. He was willing to sacrifice revival on the altar of worldly riches.

All too often our Christian walks are more like spiritual roller coasters than elevator rides. Jehoshaphat's was the same. Sometimes he walked with God and did that which was right but other times he made decisions that destroyed his dedication.

2 Chronicles 20:32-33 sums up Jehoshaphat's life this way

"He walked ... doing that which was right in the sight of the Lord. _____ the high places were _____ taken away."

Jehoshaphat's epitaph has an exception clause – He did everything right EXCEPT ... How about you? What's the exception clause keeping you from a right relationship with your God?