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YouTube Prayer Link

Zealous for God

2 Kings 12

At the beginning of this chapter, we learned that the temple was in need of repairs and restoration. King Joash commanded the priests to collect money from the Jews for this purpose. The priests then collected a fixed amount of money from each person according to the law, which was used to repair the temple.

The chapter then goes on to describe how the money was used to restore the temple. Priests are responsible for overseeing the work and ensuring that funds are used appropriately. They also appointed skilled workers to perform the work. After the temple is renovated, the remaining funds are used to make items for the temple, including utensils, lamps, and other items.

However, not all of them are faithful to their duties. Some of them took the money that was supposed to build the temple and used it for their own ends. King Joash was very upset when he learned of this and ordered the priests to be held accountable for their actions.

The chapter concludes with the death of King Joash and the succession of his son Amaziah to the throne of Judah.

2 Kings 12 reminds us of the importance of taking care of the place of worship and maintaining the proper use of the resources provided for this purpose. It also stresses the need to hold accountable those who have been given such resources and responsibilities. The spiritual truth of Joash. His zeal to repair the temple (v.5) was not motivated by the fear or love of God, but by bribing Him. Joash used to bribe God with taxes to repair the temple and "things that were sanctified" in exchange for God's blessings, but now he used "things that were sanctified" and more gold to bribe his enemies to solve their immediate needs. If a person does not love and fear God, he cannot trust in the face of trouble.

If we turn aside the truth of the Bible and lean in our flesh for God's zeal, we are like Jehu's "zeal" (10:16) and Joash's temple repairs, with a mixture of lust and a reality of bribing God with the zeal of the flesh, with the result of bringing glory to others. Therefore, those who are zealous for God today may also be zealous for idols tomorrow, all for the purpose of manipulating God and using idols to satisfy the needs of the flesh and solve their own problems.

He repaired the temple, but not himself: this is where Joash failed

We may all just be zealous in our ministry and see the need in the temple and blindly do it, but in the process of doing so, we don't see the need for our own life, and we don't build it. Too often, we focus on things and neglect the problems of our own lives. So why do we teach integration, because we often just fix the outward appearance, even though the outward appearance of our life is as if there is God, but what about the inner life in God's eyes? Is there any damage that needs to be repaired? We ignore it, and we live in religion.

James 1:14–15 "But every one is tempted, drawn and enticed by his own evil desires. When lust is conceived, it gives birth to sin, and when sin is grown, it gives birth to death. Therefore, if we ignore the small problems in our lives or allow them to exist and leave them unaddressed, it will inevitably cause us to become uncontrollable in the future.

Addressing the problem of selfish desires requires a comprehensive approach that involves leadership examples, doctrinal teaching, community support, and personal reflection and change. Here are some ways to solve this problem:

Emphasize doctrine and values: Church leadership should constantly emphasize Christian values such as selflessness, charity, humility, and devotion. Through

preaching, Bible study, and church activities, the importance of personal financial stewardship, living with humility, and service to others is emphasized.

Establish a transparent and accountable management system: Churches should establish transparent financial management and decision-making mechanisms to ensure that donations and resources are used in line with the expectations of the church and the community. This includes the development of financial reporting and auditing procedures to ensure the rational allocation and oversight of resources.

Cultivate role models: Church leaders and pastors should be role models who demonstrate a way of living with humility, temperance, and selflessness. Their words and actions should be consistent with the values they preach to inspire believers to emulate.

Establish a support system: Churches can set up support groups or groups to provide help and support to those with selfish problems. These groups can provide spiritual counseling, financial planning, and life skills training to help them get rid of their desires.

Education and Training: Provide education and training on selfish desires, financial management and consumption concepts, to help believers understand the impact of selfish desires on individuals and society, and learn to control desires and establish rational consumption concepts.

Encourage giving and service: Churches should encourage believers to actively participate in giving and service activities, practicing selfless love and kindness by providing help to the community and those in need.

Advocate scrutiny and reflection: Churches should encourage individuals to examine their own lifestyles and consumption habits, and reflect on the impact of selfish behavior on themselves and others, as well as the degree to which they conform to the teachings of Christ.

To sum up, to solve the problem of selfish desires in the whole length of the church, it is necessary to start from many aspects, including doctrinal teaching, role modeling, support system, education and training, etc., and guide believers to practice a selfless, humble and dedicated lifestyle through comprehensive measures.

We pray together:

Heavenly Father, thank you for giving us the ability to reflect and recognize the harm that lustful behavior can do to ourselves and others. Give us the humility to see and acknowledge our desires, and give us the strength and wisdom to resist the temptations of our desires and pursue a life of holiness and righteousness.

Please help us realize that our lustful actions can harm our families, friends, and communities. Give us the insight to understand the pain and distress of others as they are affected by our actions. Give us mercy and love to be considerate of others, to care for their needs, and to work for their well-being.

Give us the courage and determination to change our selfish behavior and live a life of selflessness, humility, and dedication, following the example of Jesus Christ. Lead us in the path of righteousness, walk with you, be the salt and light of your kingdom, and manifest your glory.

In the name of Jesus Christ I pray, amen.

2 Kings 12

12:1 In the seventh year of Jehu, Joash became king, and reigned in Jerusalem forty years. His mother's name was Sibia , and she was a Pakistani .

12:2 And Jehoash, while Jehoiada the priest was teaching him, did what was right in the eyes of Jehovah.

12:3 but the altar has not been abolished , and the people are still offering sacrifices and burning incense there.

12:4 And Joash said unto all the priests, Every man shall be offered any silver which is worthy of any thing that is consecrated in the house of Yahwah, or that which is worthy of each man, or that which he shall gladly offer to the house of Jehohua,

12:5 Take it from those whom you know, and repair every broken part of the temple.

12:6 In the twenty-third year of King Joash, the priests had not repaired the ruined parts of the temple.

12:7 Therefore King Joash called Jehoiada the high priest and all the priests, and said to them, "Why do you not repair the ruins of the temple?" From now on do not receive any more money from whom you know, but give up what you have received, and repair the ruins of the temple.

12:8 And the priests promised not to take any more money from the people, nor to repair the ruins of the temple.

12:9 And Jehoiada the priest took an ark, and made a hole in the lid of it, and laid it beside the altar, on the right hand of the temple of Jehoya and the Great Temple. And the priest who guarded the gate threw into the ark all the pieces of silver that had been brought to the temple of Yahohua.

12:10 When they saw that the ark was in abundance, they called the king's secretary and the high priest to come up and count the silver that was in the house of Jehohua.

12:11 The one who gave the money to the overseer was the one who did the work in the temple of Yahwa. And they gave the money to the carpenters and labourers of the temple of Yahweh.

12:12 And the bricklayers and the masons bought timber and hewn stones, and repaired the wreckage of the temple of Yahweh, and all manner of use for the repair of the temple.

12:13 But the silver that was offered to the house of Yahweh was not used for the silver cups, and for the wax shears, and for the bowls, and for the trumpets, and for other vessels of gold and silver,

12:14 but he who gave the money to the overseers, repairing the house of Yahweh.

12:15 and give the money to the clerks and to the workers to the workers, and not settle accounts with them, because they do their work in good faith.

12:16 But the trespass offering, and the money of the sin offering, were not brought to the house of Jehovah, but to the priests.

12:17 At that time, Hazael king of Syria came up against Gath, and when he had taken it, he determined to come up against Jerusalem.

12:18 And Jehoash king of Judah gave unto Hazael king of Syria all the things that were holy to his fathers, Joshaphat, Jehoram, and Ahaziah, and to himself, and all the gold that was in the treasury of the house of Yahovar, and of the royal house. Hazael will not go up to Jerusalem.

12:19 Now the rest of the acts of Joash, and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the kings of Judah.

12:20 And the servants of Joash rebelled, and slew him in the palace of Mero, which is under Silah.

12:21 And the servants who slew him were Jozagar the son of Shimeab, and Jozabal the son of Shomoth. They buried him in the grave of his fathers in the Acropolis. And Amaziah his son succeeded him as king.

Second Kings chapter 12 continues the story of Joash, who was crowned king of Judah in the previous chapter. This chapter focuses on the rebuilding of the temple and the maintenance of temple worship.

At the beginning of this chapter, we learned that the temple was in need of repairs and restoration. King Joash commanded the priests to collect money from the Jews for this purpose. The priests then collected a fixed amount of money from each person according to the law, which was used to repair the temple.

The chapter then goes on to describe how the money was used to restore the temple. Priests are responsible for overseeing the work and ensuring that funds are used appropriately. They also appointed skilled workers to perform the work. After the temple is renovated, the remaining funds are used to make items for the temple, including utensils, lamps, and other items.

However, not all priests are faithful to their duties. Some of them took the money that was supposed to build the temple and used it for their own ends. King Joash was very upset when he learned of this and ordered the priests to be held accountable for their actions.

The chapter concludes with the death of King Joash and the succession of his son Amaziah to the throne of Judah.

2 Kings 12 reminds us of the importance of taking care of places of worship and maintaining the proper use of the resources provided for this purpose. It also

stresses the need to hold accountable those who have been entrusted with such resources and responsibilities.

In 2 Kings 12, the key verses are:

Verse 2: "Jehoash did all the days long that was right in the sight of the LORD, because Jehoiada the priest commanded him.

Verse 9: "Johoiada the priest took a chest, and made a hole in the lid of it, and put it by the altar on the right side, and entered into the house of the LORD. The priest who guarded the threshold put all the money that was brought into the main temple on the threshold.

Verse 15: "They did not give an account to those who gave the money into their hands, because they were honest with the workers.

These verses highlight the reign of King Joash (also known as Joash) and his efforts to restore the Lord's temple. Joash, under the direction of the priest Johoiada, together they raised money to restore the temple by placing a chest for donations. These funds were used to pay the workers who restored the temple, and the priests who managed these funds were trusted to be honest in their dealings.

In 2 Kings 12, we come across the story of Joash's reign as king of Judah and his efforts to restore and restore the temple. This chapter offers a few points to think about:

The importance of maintaining the temple: Joash recognized the deteriorating condition of the temple and took action to repair it. He started a system to raise money and instructed the priest to use the money for necessary repairs. This account emphasizes the importance of maintaining God's home and ensuring that it remains a place of worship and reverence. It reminds us of the importance of devoting our resources to serving God and preserving spaces where we can experience His presence.

The Role of Accountability and Transparency: Joash established accountability by appointing specific individuals to oversee the collection and distribution of funds.

The priest is responsible for overseeing the repairs and ensuring that the money is used for its intended purpose. This reflects the importance of accountability and transparency in the management of resources within religious communities. It reminds us that God values integrity and faithful stewardship.

The Power of Community Involvement: Joash's fundraising efforts involved the active participation of the people of Judah. They willingly contributed their offerings to support the restoration of the temple. This highlights the power of community engagement and collective responsibility in accomplishing God's will. It reminds us that great things can be accomplished for His glory when God's people come together and each contributes according to his abilities.

God's Provision and Blessings: The money raised for the repair of the temple is used only for this purpose, and the priests do not use the money for personal gain. As a result, the temple was restored, and its structure became solid again. This narrative shows God's provision and blessings when resources are used faithfully and according to His will. It encourages us to trust in God's provision and to use our resources wisely and for His purposes.

Consequences of Negligence: Despite Joash's efforts to restore the temple, the holy relics dedicated to the Lord were not restored. This highlights the consequences of ignoring some aspects of our spiritual life and focusing on others. It reminds us that true revival involves addressing all areas of our relationship with God, not ignoring any part of His commands.

Overall, 2 Kings 12 reflects on the importance of preserving God's family, the role of accountability and transparency in stewardship, the power of community involvement, God's provision and blessings, and the consequences of neglect. It encourages us to be diligent in protecting and investing in worship spaces, to be honest in managing resources, to be actively involved in community service, to

trust in God's provision, and to ensure that we focus on all aspects of our seek
godly