

THE POWER OF A GODLY INFLUENCE

II Chronicles 24:1-27

Introduction:

1. Have you ever noticed how others characterize both you and society?
2. Several things reveal what manner of person we are.
3. We are known by the character of our friends and the company we keep.
4. We are also known by those who pose as our enemies.
5. “Birds of a feather flock together” is a statement made by some senior adults.
6. The Bible gives us this warning in I Corinthians 15:33 – *Be not deceived evil company corrupts good morals.*
7. Proverbs 13:20 – *He that walks with wise men shall be wise, but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.*
8. In our study of Joash, we see clearly the biblical example of the influence of good and evil company.

I. (vv. 1-2) JOASH WAS MENTORED BY A GODLY PRIEST.

1. (v. 1) Joash was age 7 when appointed king, and he reigned for 40 years over Judah.
2. (v. 2) Joash did right under the direction of his mentor.

II. (vv. 4-7) JOASH WAS DISTRAUGHT AT THE SHAMBLES OF THE TEMPLE.

1. (v. 4) The temple had lain in ruins for 23 years.
2. (v. 5) Joash saw that the Levites were in no hurry to fix the temple.
3. (v. 6) Joash challenged Jehoiada to get the Levites to collect money to repair the temple.
4. (v. 7) Queen Athaliah and her wicked sons had destroyed the temple.
 - A. She ruled as a queen for 6 years and promoted Baal worship in Judah and Israel.
 - B. Her marriage was a political one that brought awful spiritual pain.
 - C. Her father was Ahab, king of Israel, and her mother was wicked Jezebel.
 - D. Athaliah married Jehoram, king of Judah, in order to bring their 2 kingdoms together politically, but they destroyed the temple that Joash now will rebuild.

III. (vv. 8-14) JOASH ORDERED A CHEST TO BE MADE TO FUND THE TEMPLE RESTORATION.

1. (v. 8) Joash had the chest made, and it was placed at the gate opening to the temple.
2. (vv. 9-14) Joash’s offering chest was a great success.

IV. (vv. 15-19) JOASH LOST HIS GODLY MENTORING PRIEST JEHOIADA.

1. (vv. 15-16) Joash’s mentor died at age 130.
2. (vv. 17-19) The princes of Judah led Joash astray, then back to idol worship they went.

V. (vv. 20-22) JOASH THEN REJECTED THE THINGS OF GOD.

1. (v. 20) The Spirit of God then came upon Zechariah, Jehoiada’s son, and he challenged Joash and the leadership to return to God.
2. (v. 21) They rejected the spiritual challenge and in turn stoned Zechariah.
3. (v. 22) Zechariah in his death asked God to deal with Joash.

VI. (vv. 23-24) JOASH AND JUDAH LOST THEIR RICHES.

1. (v. 23) Syria came through Judah and destroyed all the princes, plundered their spoils, and sent the spoils back to the king in Damascus.
2. (v. 24) The Syrians were used by God to execute judgment against Joash and the princes wicked leadership.

VII. (vv. 25-27) JOASH LOST HIS TESTIMONY AND THEN HIS LIFE.

1. (v. 25) When Joash was sick in bed, his own servants came in and killed him; however, they did not bury him with the other kings.
2. (vv. 26-27) They conspired against Joash, but they credited him with repairing the house of God.
3. (v. 27) Amaziah, Joash’s son, was then appointed to take his place.

Conclusion:

1. Just because we start well doesn’t automatically mean that we will end well.
2. A good ending comes as the result of a lifetime of godly choices.