**Joash: The Power of a Godly Influence**

2 Chronicles 23-24

**2 Chronicles 24:1 (ESV)**Joash was seven years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years in Jerusalem. His mother’s name was Zibiah of Beersheba.

**2 Chronicles 24:2 (ESV)**And Joash did what was right in the eyes of the Lord all the days of Jehoiada the priest.

**[History icon]**

**2 Chronicles 22:10 (ESV)**Now when Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and destroyed all the royal family of the house of Judah.

**2 Chronicles 22:11 (ESV)**But Jehoshabeath, the daughter of the king, took Joash the son of Ahaziah and stole him away from among the king’s sons who were about to be put to death, and she put him and his nurse in a bedroom. Thus Jehoshabeath, the daughter of King Jehoram and wife of Jehoiada the priest, because she was a sister of Ahaziah, hid him from Athaliah, so that she did not put him to death.

**2 Chronicles 22:12 (ESV)**And he remained with them six years, hidden in the house of God, while Athaliah reigned over the land.

**[Story icon]**

1. **People are starving for godly influences.**

**2 Chronicles 23:1 (ESV)**But in the seventh year Jehoiada took courage and entered into a covenant with the commanders of hundreds, Azariah the son of Jeroham, Ishmael the son of Jehohanan, Azariah the son of Obed, Maaseiah the son of Adaiah, and Elishaphat the son of Zichri.

**2 Chronicles 23:2 (ESV)**And they went about through Judah and gathered the Levites from all the cities of Judah, and the heads of fathers’ houses of Israel, and they came to Jerusalem.

**2 Chronicles 23:3 (ESV)**And all the assembly made a covenant with the king in the house of God. And Jehoiada said to them, “Behold, the king’s son! Let him reign, as the Lord spoke concerning the sons of David.

**2 Chronicles 23:4 (ESV)**This is the thing that you shall do: of you priests and Levites who come off duty on the Sabbath, one third shall be gatekeepers,

**2 Chronicles 23:5 (ESV)**and one third shall be at the king’s house and one third at the Gate of the Foundation. And all the people shall be in the courts of the house of the Lord.

**2 Chronicles 23:6 (ESV)**Let no one enter the house of the Lord except the priests and ministering Levites. They may enter, for they are holy, but all the people shall keep the charge of the Lord.

**2 Chronicles 23:7 (ESV)**The Levites shall surround the king, each with his weapons in his hand. And whoever enters the house shall be put to death. Be with the king when he comes in and when he goes out.”

1. **You don’t have to have the highest position to have a huge influence.**

**2 Chronicles 23:16 (ESV)**And Jehoiada made a covenant between himself and all the people and the king that they should be the Lord’s people.

1. **The right influences will lift the level of your life.**

**2 Chronicles 24:4 (ESV)**After this Joash decided to restore the house of the Lord.

**2 Chronicles 24:8 (ESV)**So the king commanded, and they made a chest and set it outside the gate of the house of the Lord.

**2 Chronicles 24:9 (ESV)**And proclamation was made throughout Judah and Jerusalem to bring in for the Lord the tax that Moses the servant of God laid on Israel in the wilderness.

**2 Chronicles 24:10 (ESV)**And all the princes and all the people rejoiced and brought their tax and dropped it into the chest until they had finished.

**2 Chronicles 24:11 (ESV)**And whenever the chest was brought to the king’s officers by the Levites, when they saw that there was much money in it, the king’s secretary and the officer of the chief priest would come and empty the chest and take it and return it to its place. Thus they did day after day, and collected money in abundance.

**2 Chronicles 24:13 (ESV)**So those who were engaged in the work labored, and the repairing went forward in their hands, and they restored the house of God to its proper condition and strengthened it.

1. **You are responsible for who and what influences you.**

**2 Chronicles 24:15 (ESV)**But Jehoiada grew old and full of days, and died. He was 130 years old at his death.

**2 Chronicles 24:16 (ESV)**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.

**2 Chronicles 24:17 (ESV)**Now after the death of Jehoiada the princes of Judah came and paid homage to the king. Then the king listened to them.

**2 Chronicles 24:18 (ESV)**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.

**2 Chronicles 24:19 (ESV)**Yet he sent prophets among them to bring them back to the Lord. These testified against them, but they would not pay attention.

**2 Chronicles 24:22 (ESV)**Thus Joash the king did not remember the kindness that Jehoiada, Zechariah’s father, had shown him, but killed his son. And when he was dying, he said, “May the Lord see and avenge!”

**[Connections icon]**

**Matthew 5:13 (ESV)**“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet.

**Matthew 5:14 (ESV)**“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.

**Matthew 5:15 (ESV)**Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house.

**Matthew 5:16 (ESV)**In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

**[Christ icon]**

**Philippians 2:13 (ESV)**For it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

**Philippians 2:15 (ESV)**that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,