

He Knew He Was Unfaithful

By Paul R. Blake

“Now Jehoram the son of Ahab became king over Israel at Samaria in the eighteenth year of Jehoshaphat King of Judah, and reigned twelve years. And he did evil in the sight of the Lord, but not like his father and mother, for he put away the sacred pillar of Baal that his father had made. Nevertheless he persisted in the sins of Jereboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel to sin; he did not depart from them” (2Kings 3:1-3). King Jehoram was a man of half measures who tried to live two lives at the same time. He had the terrible misfortune of witnessing the gruesome deaths of his father and mother, Ahab and Jezebel; yet in spite of this he failed to purge Israel of all remnants of his parents' idolatry. He was trying to live partly by God's law and partly by the religion of his father. I submit to you that he knew that he was not faithful. He just hoped that his half measures would be accepted.

He knew that he wasn't living right. When his father Ahab died, the king of Moab attacked Israel before Jehoram had even broken in his new crown. Jehoram called for help from Jehoshaphat the king of Judah, who not only agreed to fight with him, but also gave him some wise counsel as to the direction of the march. Jehoram knew full well that he wasn't up to the task of leadership and allowed the king of Judah to lead instead. He knew he was displeasing to God.

Along the way, the armies ran out of water and there was none to be found on this lengthy desert route. Jehoram instantly concluded that God had brought them out into the desert to perish. Apparently his conscience was bothering him, and he knew that he was unfaithful. Jehoshaphat asked for a prophet of the Lord, and Elisha came to him. Elisha addressed Jehoram thusly: “What have I to do with you? Go to the prophets of your father and the prophets of your mother” (2Kings 3:13). Jehoram knew better and continued to appeal to Elisha for a prophetic response. Elisha told Jehoram that if it weren't for the fact that Jehoshaphat king of Judah was standing there, he wouldn't even be seeing Jehoram, let alone speak to him. Jehoram knew he was unfaithful.

Later, the Lord brought forth water in the desert for the combined armies and all of their animals. Elisha said that giving them water was trivial compared to the victory He would give them over Moab. The Moabites suffered such a defeat that their king offered his firstborn son in sacrifice hoping that it would stop the slaughter. Yet after being a participant and witness to the hand of the Lord, Jehoram went on to remain a half measure king; respecting Elisha, but never completely becoming faithful. He went to his grave and the Biblical record reads “he did that which was evil in the sight of God.” The Lord did not give him credit for his half service. He knew that he was unfaithful.

Does the spirit of Jehoram live on in people today? Are there any “half measure” children of God who know that they are unfaithful, but secretly hope that their half service will somehow be enough to secure a little home in heaven? Indeed there are! Jehoram's attitude is manifest in those who attend a token number of services. They come enough to be known as members, enough to avoid being disciplined, but not enough to be laborers in the vineyard of the Lord. Jehoram's spirit is seen in the manner of the token contributors who put in enough to keep from being embarrassed by those who pass the plate, but not enough to be truly giving of their means. It is seen in those who are honest and pure of speech with other Christians, but who curse, gossip, and lie before the world. Oh yes, the tradition of Jehoram's half measure service is alive to this very hour.

Moreover, those who live Jehoram's way before God know that they are unfaithful, too. It is seen in their angry response when a caring brother tries to admonish them to greater devotion. When physically sick, it is seen in their desire for the preacher and elders to visit and pray with them. When dying, it is seen in their call for a sound preacher to present the funeral

lesson. When in fear, it is seen in prayers and Bible hugging. But when times are good, they return to half measure service. They know that they are unfaithful. And... so does God.

What Really Matters?

Is it what you get, or what you give?
Is it how you feel, or how you are?
Is it how you are helped, or how you help?
Is it how it is said, or how you hear?
Is it why they came, or why you came?
Does what really matters start with others, or does it start with you?
By Dee Bowman

Salt of the Earth

In the shaker, safely I dwell,
Close to those I love so well,
Secure among each Christian peer,
Supported by each friendship dear;
Fearful to be shaken out,
Lest fear be overcome with doubt
And, meeting with the world's disfavor,
I find that I have lost my savor.
By Wanda Trawick

A Moments Wisdom

--In this fast paced world, people seem much more interested in speed rather than direction.
--It is far more impressive when others discover your good qualities without your help.
--Marriage is not a destination; it is a journey.
--Chop your own wood and it will warm you twice.
--Excellence is to do a common thing uncommonly.
--Nostalgia is longing for a place you wouldn't move back to.
--Some people believe they could move mountains, if only someone else would move the foothills out of the way.
--You will never stub your toe by standing still.
--It is not enough for a gardener to love flowers; he must also hate the weeds.
--Never pay a compliment as though you expected a receipt.
--Some talkative folk view freedom of speech, not as a right, but as a continuous obligation.
--Let him that would move the world, first move himself.
--Some people who argue long and loud for the existence of hell, seldom open their hearts and homes to rescue those who are at risk of going there.
--In the next 60 seconds, 101 people will die and 261 people will be born.
--If you ask enough people, you can usually find someone who will advise you to do what you wanted to do all along.
--Unless there is within us that which is above us, we will soon yield to that which is beneath us.
--Obstacles are those scary things we see when we take our eyes off of the goal.
--Many people mistake opinions for real thoughts.
--When people stop believing in God, they do not believe in nothing; they believe in everything.
(G. K. Chesterton)
--Those who do nothing in particular eventually become very good at it.