

# 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 true 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 Goes In Comes Out

“Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy; meditate on these things” (Phil. 4:8). The story is told of an old violinist whose music charmed audiences with its soothing, mellow sound. Wherever he played, the old violinist received a warm response. When asked the secret of his music, the man pointed to his

instrument and said, "A great deal of sunshine must have gone into the wood, and what has gone in, comes out." Isn't that true for us? What's gone into your soul lately?

### **"In the Blink of an Eye"**

"But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be" (Matt. 24:37-39). The Pearl Harbor attack demonstrated that not only were an Admiral and General unprepared, but the whole nation as well. Nearly everyone, in their satisfaction with the trivia of everyday living, ignored all the evidence that an attack was coming. In spite of all the evidence, people were astonished when the attack came.

The Bible repeatedly informs us regarding the Second Coming of Christ. Men are warned to flee from the wrath to come. They are warned that sudden destruction will overtake them. It will come as suddenly as the blinking of an eye, and unexpectedly as a thief in the night. In spite of all the warnings, men continue to be preoccupied with their everyday trivia. When the Lord comes, they will be awakened with a blow far more destructive than Pearl Harbor. Let us not let that day take us unawares.

### **A Moments Wisdom**

- A good measure of a person is what they do when given power.
- Some of the best legacies you can leave your children are good memories.
- Even if you are on the right track, you will get run over if you just sit there.
- Nothing make the good old days better than a good imagination.
- Enjoy life, but anticipate heaven.
- One who asks a question may appear to be a fool for five minutes, but one who never asks a question remains a fool forever.
- Folks who fly off in a rage often make crash landings.
- Character is not made in a crisis; it is only exhibited in one.
- Talking without thinking is like shooting without aiming.
- Many parents are so anxious to give their children what they didn't have that they neglect to give them what they did have.
- To have the peace of God, one must be at peace with God.
- Nearly everything can be bought at a reduced price, except satisfaction.
- Thinking well is wise; planning well is wiser; doing well is wisest.
- There is nothing about which we are more mistaken and the rest of the world so correct than the estimation of the value of our own importance.
- Laughter is the shortest distance between two people.
- The reason why some sermons go in one ear and out the other is that there is little in between to slow down the traffic.
- Whether or not a person goes to church regularly does not depend on how far he lives from the building but rather how far he lives from God.
- If you don't have time to do it right, when will you have time to do it over?
- If criticism had any power to harm, the skunk would be extinct by now.
- Life's most valuable things cannot be seen, weighed, measured, bought or sold.
- The best way to prove Christianity is to live it.
- Anyone can hold the ship's helm when the sea is calm.
- Some men will wrestle with their religion; they will write for it, fight for it, die for it, anything for it, except to live it.
- Joy is not a sign of the absence of suffering, but of the presence of God.
- Having a lot on your mind is not necessarily a sign of intelligence.
- Nostalgia is longing for a place you wouldn't want to move back to.
- There are few things more frightening than ignorance in action.
- When you think you have nothing more to give, you can give encouragement.
- Some are wise and some are otherwise.