



# When a King Repents

Lessons from the Reign of King Asa

◆ 1Kings 15:8-24 ◆

# Background of King Asa

- Asa was the third king of the Kingdom of Judah and the fifth king of the House of David. He was the son of Abijam, grandson of Rehoboam, and great-grandson of Solomon.
- He reigned 41 years between 913-910 BC to 873-869 BC. He was succeeded by Jehoshaphat, his son by wife Azubah. When Asa became ill, he made Jehoshaphat coregent. He died two years later.
- Late in his reign he became zealous in maintaining the traditional worship of God, and in rooting out idolatry, with its immoralities.

# Background of King Asa

- He was successful militarily. After a battle with Zerah of Egypt in the 10th year of his reign, there was peace in Judah (2Chron. 14:1, 9) for the next 25 years. (2Chron. 16:1).
- In his 36th year he was confronted by Baasha, king of Israel. He formed an alliance with Ben-Hadad I, king of Syria, and using a bribe, convinced him to break his peace treaty with Baasha and invade the Northern Kingdom. (2Chron. 16:2-6)
- When he died, he was honored by the people, and was considered a mostly righteous king. However, his reign was marred by his treaty with Ben-Hadad.

# Background of King Asa

- Azariah son of Oded, a prophet, exhorted Asa to reinforce strict national observance of Judaism, and Asa obeyed. He purged the land of pagan worship, all the sites of idol worship were destroyed and the nation entered into an oath to serve Jehovah.
- The Queen Mother, Maacah, was also deposed for having been involved with false gods, worships, and beliefs
- He banned religious prostitution and prosecuted all offenders.

# Background of King Asa

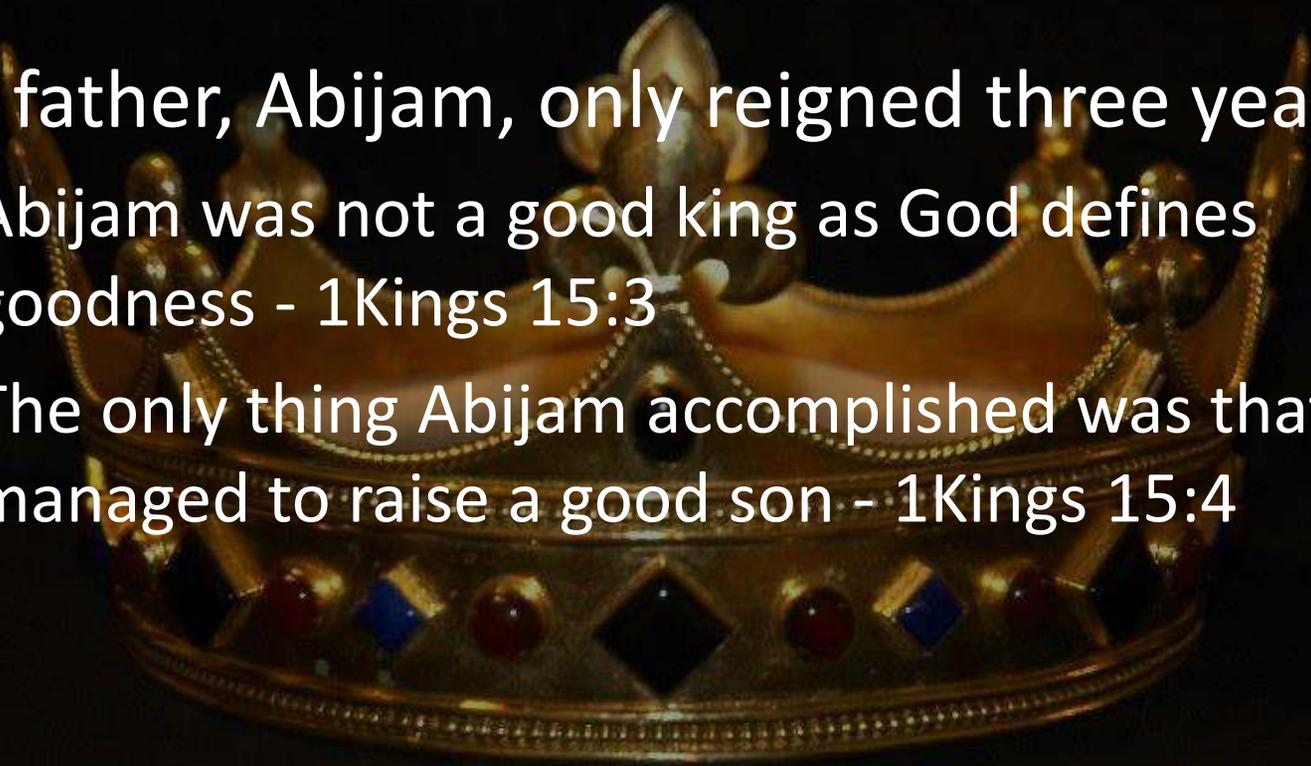
- He ordained a religious feast in Jerusalem at Solomon's Temple (2Chron. 15:10-11).
- At that time, many northerners, particularly from the tribes Ephraim and Manasseh, migrated to the Kingdom of Judah because of the golden age in Judah, and the conflict in Israel after the fall of the dynasty of Jeroboam I

# Background of King Asa

- In later years, Hanani the Seer, rebuked Asa for relying on the King of Syria as opposed to Divine help in defeating Baasha (2Chron. 16:7-10). Asa became very angry and threw Hanani in jail. He drifted from the good man he had been and oppressed some of the good people.
- In the thirty-ninth year of his reign, Asa developed a severe disease in his feet, for which he sought the help of physicians, not the Lord (2Chron. 16:12).
- He died two years later and was buried with his ancestors in Jerusalem, in the grave he had dug for himself (2Chron. 16:13-14).

# Asa Was A Good Man In The Past

- His father, Abijam, only reigned three years.
  - Abijam was not a good king as God defines goodness - 1Kings 15:3
  - The only thing Abijam accomplished was that he managed to raise a good son - 1Kings 15:4



# Asa Was A Good Man In The Past

- Asa's reign began peacefully - 2Chron. 14:1-6
  - He removed many idols and decreed the worship of God only
  - He strengthened Judah's cities.
  - He had one major battle with southern Egypt in his tenth year. Though he was out numbered two to one, he turned to God and was victorious - 2Chron. 14:11-12

# Asa Was A Good Man In The Past

- God promised to be with Asa as long as he remained faithful - 2Chron. 15:1-7
- As a result, Asa threw himself into the work of purifying Judah - 2Chron. 15:8
- People began to flock to him. Many left Israel and Jeroboam's temple to return to worshiping God in Judah - 2Chron. 15:9

# Asa Was A Good Man In The Past

- Judah and immigrant Israelites committed themselves to serving God - 2Chron. 15:12-15
- Asa did not let family ties stop him - 2Chron. 15:16
- He wasn't perfect, but he followed God with all of his heart - 2Chron. 15:17

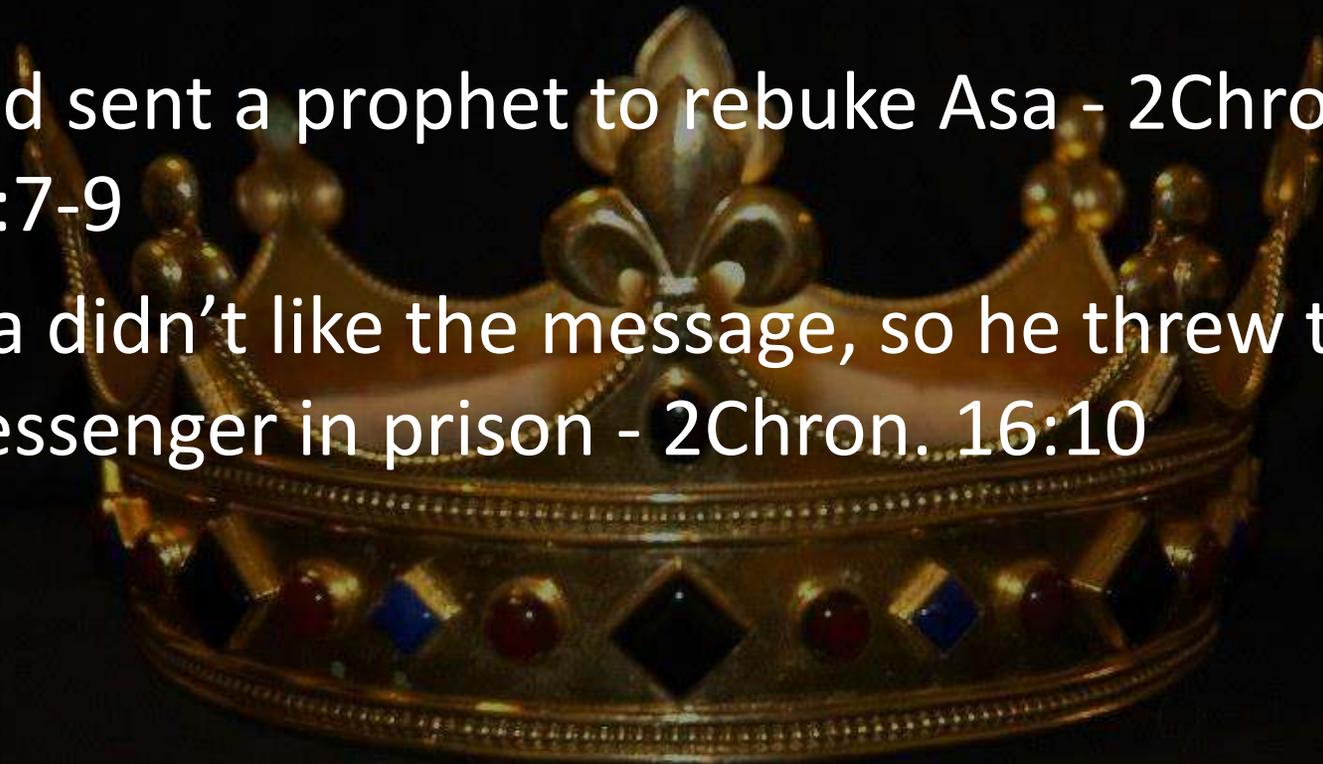


# Asa Was A Good Man In The Past

- Peace continued for another 25 years until Asa's 35th year. Baasha, Israel's king, became frustrated with number of people leaving his territory, so he closed the borders and began building a fortified city - 2Chron. 16:1
- It is at this time that Asa's attitude began to change. Instead of relying on God's help a he had in the past, Asa bribed the king of Syria to attack Israel on the north - 2Chron. 16:2-5

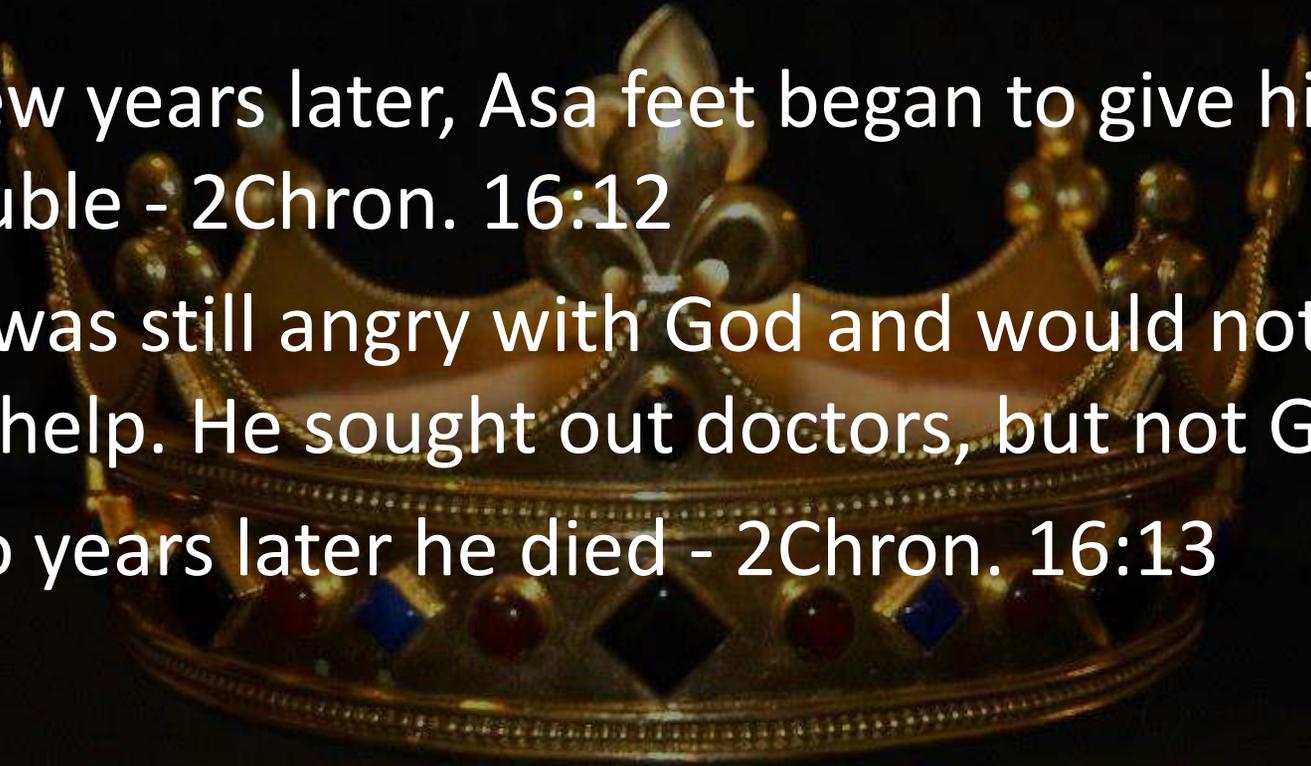
# Asa Was A Good Man In The Past

- God sent a prophet to rebuke Asa - 2Chron. 16:7-9
- Asa didn't like the message, so he threw the messenger in prison - 2Chron. 16:10



# Asa Was A Good Man In The Past

- A few years later, Asa feet began to give him trouble - 2Chron. 16:12
- He was still angry with God and would not seek His help. He sought out doctors, but not God
- Two years later he died - 2Chron. 16:13

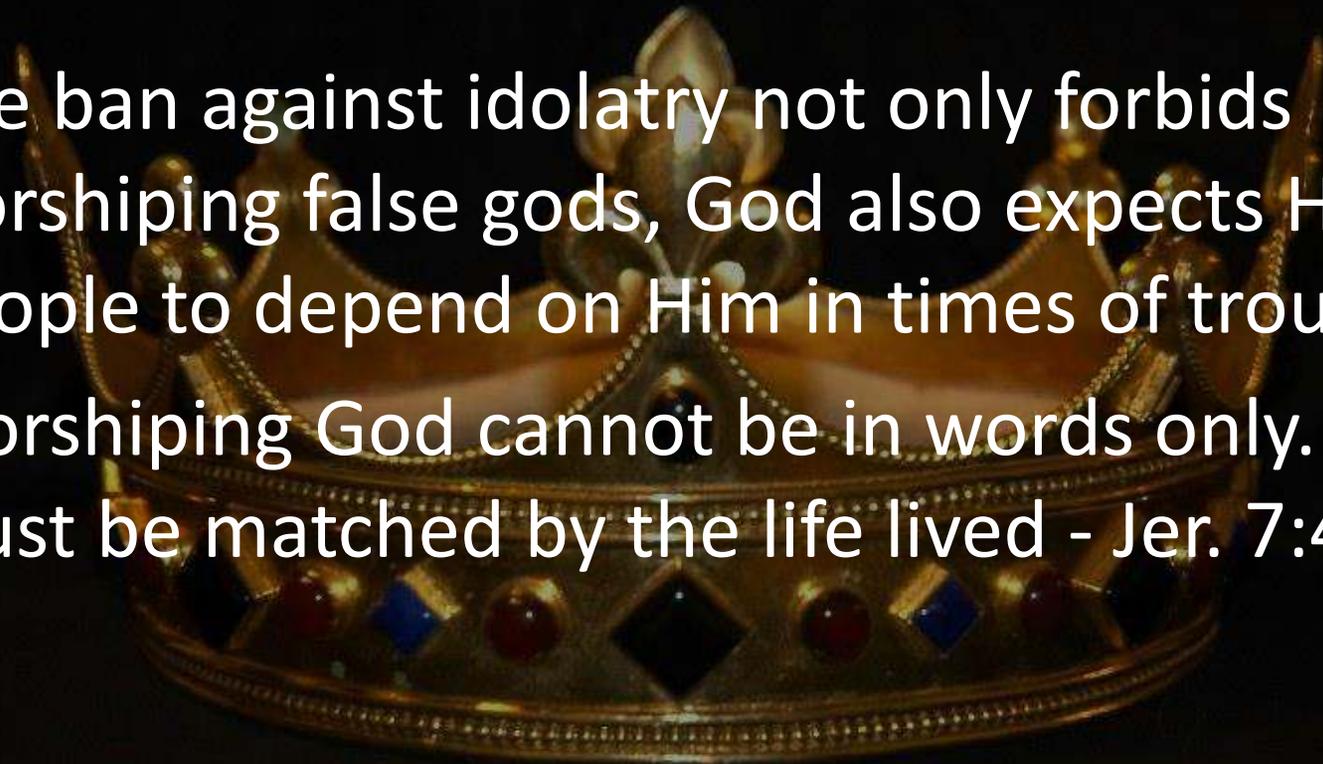


# Lessons

- God meant it when He forbade idolatry
  - Ex. 20:2-6 - “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. 3 You shall have no other gods before Me. 4 You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; 5 you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, 6 but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.”

# Lessons

- The ban against idolatry not only forbids worshiping false gods, God also expects His people to depend on Him in times of trouble.
- Worshiping God cannot be in words only. It must be matched by the life lived - Jer. 7:4-11



# Lessons

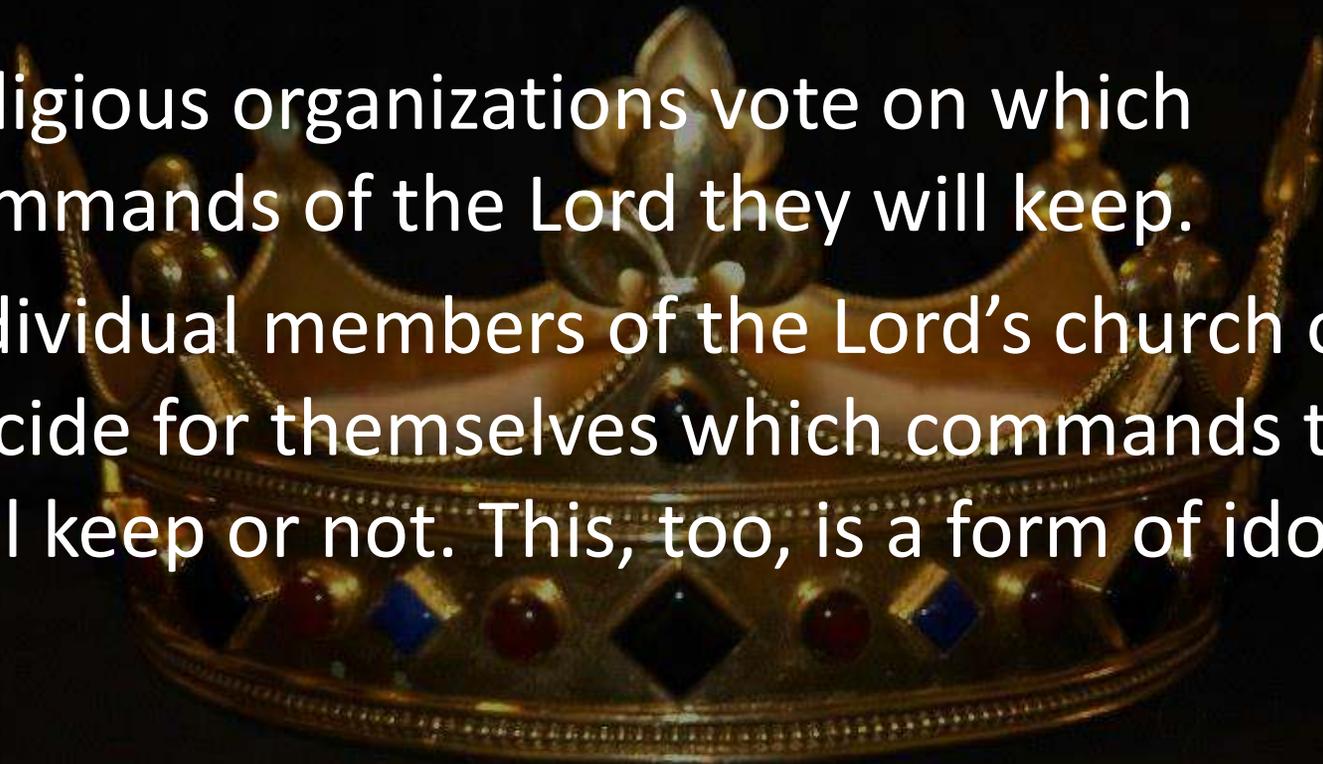
- Jer. 7:4-11 - “Do not trust in these lying words, saying, 'The temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD are these.' 5 For if you thoroughly amend your ways and your doings, if you thoroughly execute judgment between a man and his neighbor, 6 if you do not oppress the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, and do not shed innocent blood in this place, or walk after other gods to your hurt, 7 then I will cause you to dwell in this place, in the land that I gave to your fathers forever and ever. 8 Behold, you trust in lying words that cannot profit. 9 Will you steal, murder, commit adultery, swear falsely, burn incense to Baal, and walk after other gods whom you do not know, 10 and then come and stand before Me in this house which is called by My name, and say, 'We are delivered to do all these abominations'? 11 Has this house, which is called by My name, become a den of thieves in your eyes? Behold, I, even I, have seen it, says the LORD.”

# Lessons

- Relying on our own wisdom instead of God's is a form of idolatry
  - 1Cor. 3:18-20 - "Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. 19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He catches the wise in their own craftiness; 20 and again, The LORD knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile."

# Lessons

- Religious organizations vote on which commands of the Lord they will keep.
- Individual members of the Lord's church often decide for themselves which commands they will keep or not. This, too, is a form of idolatry



# Lessons

- Trusting God means seeking and accepting God's solution in all things
- Asa strayed when he began solving problems with his own answers.
  - Prov. 3:5-7 - "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. 7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and depart from evil."

# Lessons

- Jer. 10:23 - “O LORD, I know the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps.”
- Rom. 12:16 - “Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.”

# Lessons

- Be willing to listen to rebuke regardless of position or experience
  - Prov. 13:1 - “A wise son heeds his father's instruction, But a scoffer does not listen to rebuke.”
- Learning from a rebuke makes a deep, lasting impression
  - Luke 17:10 - “So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, 'We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do’”

# Lessons

- When someone strays, we must be willing to rebuke them
  - Luke 17:3 - “Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him.”
- It is a manifestation of true care
  - Prov. 27:5 - “Open rebuke is better Than love carefully concealed.”

# Lessons

- Be willing to repent of mistakes
- Some reported to Jesus the evil done by others. Jesus used the occasion to warn them about their own needs
  - Luke 13:1-5 - “There were present at that season some who told Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. 2 And Jesus answered and said to them, Do you suppose that these Galileans were worse sinners than all other Galileans, because they suffered such things? 3 I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish. 4 Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse sinners than all other men who dwelt in Jerusalem? 5 I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.”

# Lessons

- Often we see evil done by others and congratulate ourselves for being so much better.
- Why do our sins appear less evil to us than someone else's?
  - 1Cor. 11:31 - “For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged.”
- Sin is sin. My sins can keep me out of heaven just as my neighbor's sins will condemn him.

# Lessons

- All men, everywhere need to repent
  - Acts 17:30 - “Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent”
  - 1John 1:8-10 - “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.”