

One Man's Influence

Text: 2 Chron. 34:1-2

INTRODUCTION:

- A. DO YOU FEEL OUTNUMBERED?
- B. ONE MAN OR WOMAN CAN PROFOUNDLY EFFECT A WAYWARD NATION.
- C. JOSIAH WAS SUCH A MAN.

I. THE CONDITIONS DESCRIBED.

- A. MANASSEH'S INFLUENCE(**2 Chron. 33:2-9**).
 - 1. **Baalim** - Baal = "lord"; the supreme male divinity of the Phoenicians or Canaanites.
 - 2. **Asherim**, groves(**KJV**) = sexually explicit idols of Canaanite fertility cult; associated with Baal cult prostitutes (**2 Kings 23:7**) "groves (for idol worship)" sacred trees (poles) set up near an altar; Canaanite goddess (of fortune and happiness)the supposed consort of Baal.
 - 3. Profaned the temple in mockery to Jehovah.
 - 4. **Human sacrifice** and **Hell**(**vs. 6**).
 - 5. "**Abominations**" (**vs. 2**) - something disgusting (morally).

- B. AMON'S INFLUENCE(**2 Chron. 33:21-24**).

II. THE BASIS OF HIS APPROACH.

- A. DOING GOD'S WILL(**2 Chron. 34:1-2**).
- B. POSSIBLE PARENTAL INFLUENCE OF HIS MOTHER.
 - 1. Jedidah (**2 Kings. 22:1**) of Adaiah her father(*pleasing to Jehovah*).
 - 2. Lois & Eunice so influenced Timothy(**2 Tim 1:5**).
- C. THE HAND THE ROCKS THE CRADLE...(**Titus 2:4-5; 1 Tim 4:14**).
 - 1. **Rule the house, oikodespoteo** - to rule a household, manage family affairs.
 - 2. In subjection(**Eph. 5:23**). He needs to let her have her domain.

III. THE COURSE HE FOLLOWED.

- A. SOUGHT GOD AT AN EARLY AGE - 16(**vs. 3; Ecc. 11:9-12:1**).
- B. WAS FAITHFUL ALL HIS DAYS(**vs. 2; Heb. 3:14; 10:23**).

IV. MAN ENOUGH TO DO WHAT WAS NECESSARY AND RIGHT - AGE 20. (vs. 3-7; 1 Cor. 16:13-14).

- A. TORE DOWN THE IDOLS(**vs. 3-7**).
 - 1. The Lord's work is not always easy or pleasant(**Matt. 10:34-39**).
 - 2. Constant struggle and opposition(**Luke 13:24; 1 Pet. 5:8**).
 - 3. But God is faithful(**Gal. 6:7-9**).
- B. HE REFURBISHED THE TEMPLE(**vs. 8-13**).
 - 1. There was a whole lot to do.
 - 2. There is work for us, too(**Matt. 9:36-38**).
 - 3. There is much work on the church that needs doing(**Eph. 4:15-16**).
- C. **John 9:4.**

V. A RECEPTIVE HEART.

- A. A STARTLING DISCOVERY(**vs. 14**).
 - 1. Do not have to lose your copy to neglect it(**Matt. 22:29**).
 - 2. The source of any spiritual awakening - imperishable word.
 - a. The truth is in God's word(**Psa. 119:160; John 1:17**).
 - b. True freedom is in the truth, the word of God(**John 8:32**).
 - c. Place a proper value on truth(**Prov. 23:23**).
 - 3. We need to come back(**Jer. 6:16; 1 Cor. 4:6**).
- B. A PENITENT RESPONSE(**vs. 18-19**).
 - 1. Maybe king's responsibility(**Deut. 17:18-20**).
 - 2. Godly sorrow important(**Neh. 8:9; Psa. 51:16-17; 2 Cor. 7:10**).
- C. A DESIRE TO KNOW AND DO ALL GOD'S WILL(**vs. 21-22**).
- D. HUMILITY ESSENTIAL(**vs. 27; James 4:6-10**).

VI. EAGERNESS TO HELP ALL MEN.

- A. CALLED THE LEADERS TO SHARE TRUTH WITH THEM(**vs. 29-30**).
- B. HE RENEWED THE COVENANT WITH GOD(**vs. 31-32**).
 - 1. His personal commitment to follow God & perform!(**James 1:21**).
 - 2. We must let our light shine(**Matt. 5:16**).
- D. BLESSED IN HIS EFFORTS(**vs. 33; 1 Cor. 15:58**).

CONCLUSION:

- A. ONE MAN MADE A DIFFERENCE.
- B. YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.