

# Joash: A Man of Two Minds

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October 6, 2019



**Open:** Would you describe yourself as a person who is easily influenced? Why or why not?

**Read:** 2 Chronicles 23:16-21; 24:1-2, 12-25

**Discuss:**

1. Based on these passages, how would you describe Jehoiada? How would you characterize his relationship with Joash? (*Note 2 Kings 12:2.*) Have you ever had a person in your life who was a strong spiritual influence? How did they help you?
2. After Jehoiada's death, Joash makes a radical change (24:15-19). Why do you think he changed so severely? What does this say to you about Joash's character? Do you know of someone who allowed themselves to be led astray by the negative influence of others?
3. Joash appears to be a man who is easily influenced by others. How can we make sure that we're influenced by people who are leading us to good things? What is an appropriate way to respond to those who are influencing us in negative directions?
4. God sent prophets to Joash and the leaders of Judah to bring them back to the Lord (24:19). What does this reveal about the character of God? Have you ever experienced God pursuing you in this way? Explain.
5. Joash and his leaders disregarded all the prophets and killed the last one, Zechariah, the son of Jehoiada. What might this tell us about the heart of Joash? What is Jesus' point in referencing this in Matthew 23:34-35?
6. God brought judgment on Joash and Judah through Syria (24:23-24). What does this judgment teach us about God's attitude toward the disobedience of His people? How is God's hand clearly evident in the defeat of Judah and the death of Joash?

**Apply:** What lesson would you draw from Joash's life? What could you do this week to make sure you walk in faithfulness to God maintaining your focus on Him?

**Pray:** Pray for yourself and the people of Neighborhood Church that when the temptation comes to be influenced in the wrong direction that we will stand firm. Pray that we'll all conduct ourselves as Jehoiada did, influencing others toward godly pursuits?

## 2 Chronicles 23:16-21

<sup>16</sup> And Jehoiada made a covenant between himself and all the people and the king that they should be the Lord's people. <sup>17</sup> Then all the people went to the house of Baal and tore it down; his altars and his images they broke in pieces, and they killed Mattan the priest of Baal before the altars. <sup>18</sup> And Jehoiada posted watchmen for the house of the Lord under the direction of the Levitical priests and the Levites whom David had organized to be in charge of the house of the Lord, to offer burnt offerings to the Lord, as it is written in the Law of Moses, with rejoicing and with singing, according to the order of David. <sup>19</sup> He stationed the gatekeepers at the gates of the house of the Lord so that no one should enter who was in any way unclean. <sup>20</sup> And he took the captains, the nobles, the governors of the people, and all the people of the land, and they brought the king down from the house of the Lord, marching through the upper gate to the king's house. And they set the king on the royal throne. <sup>21</sup> So all the people of the land rejoiced, and the city was quiet after Athaliah had been put to death with the sword.

## 2 Chronicles 24:1-2, 12-25

<sup>24:1</sup> 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. <sup>2</sup> And Joash did what was right in the eyes of the Lord all the days of Jehoiada the priest.

<sup>24:12</sup> And the king and Jehoiada gave it to those who had charge of the work of the house of the Lord, and they hired masons and carpenters to restore the house of the Lord, and also workers in iron and bronze to repair the house of the Lord. <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> And when they had finished, they brought the rest of the money before the king and Jehoiada, and with it were made utensils for the house of the Lord, both for the service and for the burnt offerings, and dishes for incense and vessels of gold and silver. And they offered burnt offerings in the house of the Lord regularly all the days of Jehoiada.

<sup>15</sup> But Jehoiada grew old and full of days, and died. He was 130 years old at his death. <sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> Now after the death of Jehoiada the princes of Judah came and paid homage to the king. Then the king listened to them. <sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> Yet he sent prophets among them to bring them back to the Lord. These testified against them, but they would not pay attention.

<sup>20</sup> Then the Spirit of God clothed Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest, and he stood above the people, and said to them, "Thus says God, 'Why do you break the commandments of the Lord, so that you cannot prosper? Because you have forsaken the Lord, he has forsaken you.'" <sup>21</sup> But they conspired against him, and by command of the king they stoned him with stones in the court of the house of the Lord. <sup>22</sup> 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!"

<sup>23</sup> At the end of the year the army of the Syrians came up against Joash. They came to Judah and Jerusalem and destroyed all the princes of the people from among the people and sent all their spoil to the king of Damascus. <sup>24</sup> Though the army of the Syrians had come with few men, the Lord delivered into their hand a very great army, because Judah had forsaken the Lord, the God of their fathers. Thus they executed judgment on Joash.

<sup>25</sup> When they had departed from him, leaving him severely wounded, his servants conspired against him because of the blood of the son of Jehoiada the priest, and killed him on his bed. So he died, and they buried him in the city of David, but they did not bury him in the tombs of the kings. (ESV)