

Jehoram: Disregarding the Lord is Costly and Painful

October 13, 2019



Open: What are common reasons people give for disregarding God's instructions, both inside and outside the church?

Read: 2 Chronicles 21:1-20

Discuss:

1. Looking at the first three verses in this passage, how would you describe Josaphat's intentions for his sons' inheritance? Since Jehoram was already king, what might have been his motive for killing his brothers (v. 4)?
2. How does verse 6 give us more understanding for why Jehoram behaved as he did? How do our patterns and practices have far reaching effects on others?
3. How does verse 7 reflect both the mercy and faithfulness of God? How has God's mercy been granted to you when you did not deserve it?
4. **Read 2 Kings 8:20-22.** In this parallel passage, we see that in spite of Jehoram's (here called *Joram*) efforts to end the rebellion of Edom, his own army fled, and he was not successful. What does the rebellion of Edom, Libnah, and even Jehoram's own army indicate about Jehoram's leadership? What roles of leadership do you have, and what can you do to encourage the cooperation and joy of those you work with?
5. What were God's three reasons for judgment against Jehoram (2 Chronicles 21:12-15)? What do we learn through this about the consequences of our sin? Who in our lives are most likely to be affected by our sin? How has the sin of others impacted you?
6. According to 2 Chronicles 21:18-20, what were the results of Jehoram's disregard for God? How does his legacy compare to other kings we have studied so far in this series?

Apply: What are you doing to make sure your spiritual impact on others is to their benefit? How can you increase your opportunities to influence others positively?

Pray: Pray that Neighborhood Church would walk in faithfulness to God and thereby be a great influence on those around us.

2 Chronicles 21:1-20

^[1] Jehoshaphat slept with his fathers and was buried with his fathers in the city of David, and Jehoram his son reigned in his place. ^[2] He had brothers, the sons of Jehoshaphat: Azariah, Jehiel, Zechariah, Azariah, Michael, and Shephatiah; all these were the sons of Jehoshaphat king of Israel. ^[3] Their father gave them great gifts of silver, gold, and valuable possessions, together with fortified cities in Judah, but he gave the kingdom to Jehoram, because he was the firstborn. ^[4] When Jehoram had ascended the throne of his father and was established, he killed all his brothers with the sword, and also some of the princes of Israel. ^[5] Jehoram was thirty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned eight years in Jerusalem. ^[6] And he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, as the house of Ahab had done, for the daughter of Ahab was his wife. And he did what was evil in the sight of the LORD. ^[7] Yet the LORD was not willing to destroy the house of David, because of the covenant that he had made with David, and since he had promised to give a lamp to him and to his sons forever.

^[8] In his days Edom revolted from the rule of Judah and set up a king of their own. ^[9] Then Jehoram passed over with his commanders and all his chariots, and he rose by night and struck the Edomites who had surrounded him and his chariot commanders. ^[10] So Edom revolted from the rule of Judah to this day. At that time Libnah also revolted from his rule, because he had forsaken the LORD, the God of his fathers.

^[11] Moreover, he made high places in the hill country of Judah and led the inhabitants of Jerusalem into whoredom and made Judah go astray. ^[12] And a letter came to him from Elijah the prophet, saying, "Thus says the LORD, the God of David your father, 'Because you have not walked in the ways of Jehoshaphat your father, or in the ways of Asa king of Judah, ^[13] but have walked in the way of the kings of Israel and have enticed Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem into whoredom, as the house of Ahab led Israel into whoredom, and also you have killed your brothers, of your father's house, who were better than you, ^[14] behold, the LORD will bring a great plague on your people, your children, your wives, and all your possessions, ^[15] and you yourself will have a severe sickness with a disease of your bowels, until your bowels come out because of the disease, day by day.'"

^[16] And the LORD stirred up against Jehoram the anger of the Philistines and of the Arabians who are near the Ethiopians. ^[17] And they came up against Judah and invaded it and carried away all the possessions they found that belonged to the king's house, and also his sons and his wives, so that no son was left to him except Jehoahaz, his youngest son.

^[18] And after all this the LORD struck him in his bowels with an incurable disease. ^[19] In the course of time, at the end of two years, his bowels came out because of the disease, and he died in great agony. His people made no fire in his honor, like the fires made for his fathers. ^[20] He was thirty-two years old when he began to reign, and he reigned eight years in Jerusalem. And he departed with no one's regret. They buried him in the city of David, but not in the tombs of the kings. (ESV)

2 Kings 8:20-22

^[20] In his days Edom revolted from the rule of Judah and set up a king of their own. ^[21] Then Joram passed over to Zair with all his chariots and rose by night, and he and his chariot commanders struck the Edomites who had surrounded him, but his army fled home. ^[22] So Edom revolted from the rule of Judah to this day. Then Libnah revolted at the same time. (ESV)