

Amaziah: Half-Hearted Devotion to God

October 20, 2019



Open: What are some things you do or have done half-heartedly?

Read: 2 Chronicles 25:1-25

Discuss:

1. Verse 2 says that Amaziah "did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, yet not with a whole heart." In verses 3-4, how do we see Amaziah obeying God half-heartedly? What might have motivated such behavior?
2. What would be specific characteristics of following God whole-heartedly? What are some areas where we might be tempted to follow God half-heartedly? Why is this wrong?
3. Amaziah had a large army, but still sought to strengthen it with soldiers of a nation that was not walking with God (vv. 5-6). What are ways we might make similar compromises? From verses 7-9, what does the prophet want Amaziah to understand about God?
4. After experiencing God's blessing in victory, Amaziah worships the gods of those he has conquered and is rebuked for it (vv. 14-15). In what ways are we deceived into thinking we can find deliverance outside of God's help?
5. Amaziah listened to the prophet in verses 7-9, when another prophet approaches him in verses 15-16 he does *not* listen. What might explain the difference in Amaziah's response? When do you find it easy to listen to God's commands, and when do you find it difficult?
6. From verses 17-19 it's clear that Amaziah had been overtaken by pride as a result of his victory. How have you seen pride prompt people to take on more than they should? Why does pride often lead us to make foolish decisions? What helps keep your pride in check?
7. What do verses 20-24 indicate could happen to those who disobey God? What could Amaziah have done differently to have avoided this outcome?

Apply: What do you need to do to walk whole-heartedly with God this week?

Pray: Pray that the people of our church would give God their full devotion and obedience. Ask for God's help in resisting the temptation to make compromises.

2 Chronicles 25:1-25

^[1] Amaziah was twenty-five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Jehoaddan of Jerusalem. ^[2] And he did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, yet not with a whole heart. ^[3] And as soon as the royal power was firmly his, he killed his servants who had struck down the king his father. ^[4] But he did not put their children to death, according to what is written in the Law, in the Book of Moses, where the LORD commanded, "Fathers shall not die because of their children, nor children die because of their fathers, but each one shall die for his own sin."

^[5] Then Amaziah assembled the men of Judah and set them by fathers' houses under commanders of thousands and of hundreds for all Judah and Benjamin. He mustered those twenty years old and upward, and found that they were 300,000 choice men, fit for war, able to handle spear and shield. ^[6] He hired also 100,000 mighty men of valor from Israel for 100 talents of silver. ^[7] But a man of God came to him and said, "O king, do not let the army of Israel go with you, for the LORD is not with Israel, with all these Ephraimites. ^[8] But go, act, be strong for the battle. Why should you suppose that God will cast you down before the enemy? For God has power to help or to cast down." ^[9] And Amaziah said to the man of God, "But what shall we do about the hundred talents that I have given to the army of Israel?" The man of God answered, "The LORD is able to give you much more than this." ^[10] Then Amaziah discharged the army that had come to him from Ephraim to go home again. And they became very angry with Judah and returned home in fierce anger. ^[11] But Amaziah took courage and led out his people and went to the Valley of Salt and struck down 10,000 men of Seir. ^[12] The men of Judah captured another 10,000 alive and took them to the top of a rock and threw them down from the top of the rock, and they were all dashed to pieces. ^[13] But the men of the army whom Amaziah sent back, not letting them go with him to battle, raided the cities of Judah, from Samaria to Beth-horon, and struck down 3,000 people in them and took much spoil.

^[14] After Amaziah came from striking down the Edomites, he brought the gods of the men of Seir and set them up as his gods and worshiped them, making offerings to them. ^[15] Therefore the LORD was angry with Amaziah and sent to him a prophet, who said to him, "Why have you sought the gods of a people who did not deliver their own people from your hand?" ^[16] But as he was speaking, the king said to him, "Have we made you a royal counselor? Stop! Why should you be struck down?" So the prophet stopped, but said, "I know that God has determined to destroy you, because you have done this and have not listened to my counsel."

^[17] Then Amaziah king of Judah took counsel and sent to Joash the son of Jehoahaz, son of Jehu, king of Israel, saying, "Come, let us look one another in the face." ^[18] And Joash the king of Israel sent word to Amaziah king of Judah, "A thistle on Lebanon sent to a cedar on Lebanon, saying, 'Give your daughter to my son for a wife,' and a wild beast of Lebanon passed by and trampled down the thistle. ^[19] You say, 'See, I have struck down Edom,' and your heart has lifted you up in boastfulness. But now stay at home. Why should you provoke trouble so that you fall, you and Judah with you?"

^[20] But Amaziah would not listen, for it was of God, in order that he might give them into the hand of their enemies, because they had sought the gods of Edom. ^[21] So Joash king of Israel went up, and he and Amaziah king of Judah faced one another in battle at Beth-shemesh, which belongs to Judah. ^[22] And Judah was defeated by Israel, and every man fled to his home. ^[23] And Joash king of Israel captured Amaziah king of Judah, the son of Joash, son of Ahaziah, at Beth-shemesh, and brought him to Jerusalem and broke down the wall of Jerusalem for 400 cubits, from the Ephraim Gate to the Corner Gate. ^[24] And he seized all the gold and silver, and all the vessels that were found in the house of God, in the care of Obed-edom. He seized also the treasuries of the king's house, also hostages, and he returned to Samaria.

^[25] Amaziah the son of Joash, king of Judah, lived fifteen years after the death of Joash the son of Jehoahaz, king of Israel. (ESV)