

Kings & Kingdoms #2
The Pitfall of Distrust

Word

Scripture Reference

2 Chronicles 14, 16

Discussion Questions:

1. What makes you distrust people?
2. Whom you choose to trust is one of the most important decisions you will need to make. If you trust an unreliable world to catch you when you fall, and it didn't catch you, then you do not have anyone to blame but yourself for trusting something that will let you down. Whom you put your trust in is a decision that only yourself can make. King Asa, the king of the south kingdom when Israel was divided into two kingdoms, started so well but ended badly. Read 2 Chronicles 14,16. King Asa started out well by doing the following:
 - a. He did what was right in the eyes of God (ch. 14:1-7). Describe how King Asa led God's people good and well in the eyes of God. King Asa acknowledged that God blessed him and his kingdom with peace and prosperity because he trusted and obeyed in God (v. 7). God's principle is simple: obey Him and He will bless you. When you have to make decisions, do you ever ask the question, "What does the Bible say about this matter?" Do you find yourself disobeying God, yet expect His blessings? How do you lead your family members or people under your management/guidance according to what pleases the Lord? Do you lead by example? What difference does your leadership make in other people's lives?
 - b. He trusted in God whole-heartedly (v. 11). Read King Asa's beautiful and heart-felt prayer in verse 11 before engaging in a big battle against a mighty and vast army. What can you learn from his prayer? How did God bless King Asa and his army because of King Asa's trust and obedience (v. 12)? More often than not, the first person you seek out in times of crisis is the person you trust. Think about what you do first when you encounter a problem. Do you come to God in prayer right away, or is prayer just a back-up plan for you? If you have ever encountered a problem and the first thing you did to deal with it was to pray, can you share what your prayer was like.

3. For one who started so well, King Asa ended badly. Something went wrong in the last few years of his reign as a king:
 - a. He stopped trusting in God (ch. 16:1-8). What does the passage say about what King Asa had to deal with? How did he handle it? Who did he turn to this time? Why do you think he stopped trusting in God? Often, as Christians get older and more confident in their job or life in general, they trust God less and less. But there is no middle ground in trusting God. You either trust God, or you don't (you trust the world instead). Discuss the signs Christians show that they have fallen into the pitfall of distrust in God and have chosen to trust the world as they get older in faith instead of growing and maturing in the Lord.
 - b. He forgot that God's eyes are looking for people to help—ones who trust Him and are loyal to Him (ch. 16:9-13). God's eyes range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to Him. How did God find Asa's heart? How did King Asa react to the prophet who rebuked him (v. 10)? What was the consequence of his foolish action? God wants to show to those whose hearts are loyal to Him that He is strong, and wants to bless those who trust Him. What will be the consequence if you ever take your trust off of God? King Asa had foot disease that should have caused him to turn around and repent, but he didn't. His heart was hardened. Discuss what you should do to keep the same fate from happening to you. How should you respond to God's rebuke?

Walk

King Asa started so well, as a leader of God's people who trusted God for everything. But his competence as a King made him so proud that towards the last years of his reign, he stopped trusting in God. As a Christian, your trust in God should be whole-hearted and genuine. Do you desire to do what is pleasing in His eyes? Is your faith a situational kind, trusting God only when your situation is desperate and unbearable? Do you allow pride brought upon by successes, honors, and competency to keep you from fully trusting the Lord? When God reminds you of your sin, do you repent and turn from it? Ponder these thoughts and ask Him to keep you from the pitfall of distrust.

Worship & Prayer

Father, thank You for reminding me that trust is to be lived out. Often I say I trust You, but rely on my own strength when I encounter difficulties and choose to trust other people to help me. I only come to you when nobody else can. Forgive me, Lord. I forget that in my weakness, You are my only strength. I humble myself before you and ask to cleanse me of pride. Do not allow my heart to be hardened from hearing Your Word. Give me wisdom and strength, and give me the support I need for the times You need to teach me how to trust You. In Jesus' name. Amen.