

Kings & Kingdoms #5  
**The Pitfall of Isolation**

*Word*

**Scripture Reference**

2 Chronicles 24

**Discussion Questions**

1. Have you ever felt isolated? How did you feel about it?
2. Many Christians think that they don't need to be a part of a church community, but the Bible tells us that it is in community that the Christian life grows and flourishes. King Joash's life story is a warning for us to not tumble into this pitfall. He was the last child of King Ahaziah. His grandmother Athaliah killed all of the royal heirs of Judah's kingdom (ch. 22). Joash was cared for by his aunt and her husband Jehoiada the High Priest who took back the throne for Joash, who was the rightful heir of the kingdom (ch. 23). Read 2 Chronicles 24. How old was Joash when he became king (v. 1)? How did the Scripture describe Joash's reign (v. 2)? What was Jehoiada's role in Joash's life? Discuss how working as a team made Joash and Jehoiada very efficient.
3. We see from this account three benefits of working as a team instead of working in isolation. The first benefit is unity (v. 8-10). Describe the difference in the fund raising for the upkeep of the temple before and after Jehoiada joined forces with King Joash. What did the people see that got the project going that made them respond? Why is teamwork important? Discuss why unity among church leaders or in other companies and organizations so important. How does unity in your church bring glory to God?
4. The second benefit of being in community is accountability (v. 11-13). How did the leaders take good care of the money collected for the refurbishing of the temple? Discuss why accountability is important especially in financial matters, even for church ministries when you may think that everyone is trustworthy? How do people respond when there is good accountability in what they give as an offering to God?
5. The third benefit of being in community is continuity (v. 14). What did they do with the rest of the offering after they had finished renovating the temple? Note that the temple was used every day as it was intended by God, but for how long? Who has been an encouragement to you to continually do the good things you do? How does community in Christianity ensure that there is continuity in what the church does? King Joash did very well with his partnership with the High Priest Jehoiada. However, Joash turned from spiritual community to isolation. What

was his turning point (v. 15-16)?

6. Joash's isolation resulted in the following:
  - a. No continuity (v. 17-19). What happened after the death of Jehoiada? What should King Joash have done to avoid this turn of events? Discuss what would happen to your good intentions, hard work and accomplishment if you live in isolation instead of living or working with others and passing your wisdom to others?
  - b. No accountability (v. 20-22). Who was Zechariah? What did King Joash do to him that was a clear indication that there was no accountability, hence, there was no one to tell him that what he did was wrong? You can be a person with the highest integrity and morals, but accountability protects you from yourself. What are the dangers looming to anyone who has no accountability? Do you have anyone to hold you accountable for your responsibilities as a child of God? Share how having accountability has helped you in your life whether at home, school or at work. How does accountability protect you from yourself?
  - c. No unity. There was no unity among the leadership of Judah (v. 23-25). What happened to King Joash as a result of disunity not only among his kingdom's leadership but in his own household as well? What happens when there is no unity in your home or in your Christian community, the church. How can it be avoided?

*Walk*

When you are part of a community, there is unity, accountability, and continuity. In contrast, in isolation there is no unity, no accountability and no continuity. How can you avoid falling into this pit? How would you show your appreciation to the people you are surrounded with? How would you show your appreciation to the Lord who cares for you and doesn't want to leave you in isolation?

*Worship & Prayer*

*Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for creating us to be relational beings, for designing us to belong to a community so that unity, accountability, and continuity helps us flourish as Christians. Sometimes, Lord, it's easier to be alone because it's less hassle, fewer disagreements, it seems more efficient. But those "hassles" are only because of my pride and selfishness. Forgive me, Father. Help me deal with those sins with humility and patience. Let me not be content with simply being going to church. I ask You, Lord, that I may find a spiritual accountability group that will help me grow in my spiritual walk, encourage me to serve, and hold me accountable in my responsibilities as a child of God and as a member of the church community. These I ask in Christ's name. Amen.*