

Kings & Kingdoms #6
The Pitfall of Disloyalty

Word

Scripture Reference

2 Chronicles 25

Discussion Questions

1. Think of people, organizations, teams, brands, etc. to which you are (or have been) loyal. Which ones deserve your loyalty? Which ones do not?
2. A person's loyalty is most seen not in words, but in one's actions. For many believers, loyalty is half-hearted, which is often evidenced by their actions & priorities. What are some factors that make our loyalty to God conditional rather than unconditional?
3. *Loyalty is standing with God by obeying His commands, knowing He is able to help you (v. 5-8).* Amaziah is one of the kings of Judah. He did what was right in the sight of God, yet he had a heart that is not loyal (v. 2). King Amaziah assembled able men from Judah for battle, but he also hired men from Israel (Northern Kingdom). However, a prophet of God warned him not to join with Israel because they do not follow God. Amaziah was relying on the ability and quantity of soldiers to produce a favorable outcome in battle more than he relied on God. Loyalty must be based on the object rather than the circumstance. "Loyalty is rooted in relationship and respect regardless of differing opinions, approaches or philosophies." How does relationship and respect influence loyalty? How is your relationship with God? What are some instances where, because of your loyalty to God, you have experienced His help?
4. *Loyalty is standing with God by obeying His commands, knowing He can make up your temporary loss (v. 9-13).* Through the prophet's advice, Amaziah listened and sent home the mercenaries. Though he lost a large sum, Amaziah experienced great victory against the Edomites. Everybody wants to win and be successful, which is often a cause of disloyalty. It is very easy to focus on what we may lose now rather than what God can give later. God promises the He will make it up. In what area of your life do you seek to be most successful? What are some things that you may find difficult to give up to remain loyal to God? Share an experience wherein you gave up something to obey God and in turn God blessed you more than what you lost.
5. We learn from our passage what Amaziah's disloyalty caused:
 - a. *Disloyalty to God causes you to turn to things that are not able to help you (v. 15-16).* Amaziah began to worship the gods of the Edomites whom he had

just defeated. The prophet rebuked him but Amaziah did not listen, and instead sought other gods. Without unconditional, whole-hearted loyalty to God, virtually anything can cause you to change allegiance. Half-loyalty is really no loyalty at all. There is no such thing as neutral a neutral position in your walk with God. In what area of your life do you often find yourself being disloyal to God? What are some situations or circumstances that cause you to compromise your loyalty?

- b. *Disloyalty to God often causes one trying for temporary gain to experience permanent loss (v. 17-28).* Because Amaziah turned his loyalty to things that really cannot help him, God allowed him to experience utter defeat. He lost everything, including his life. When we turn our loyalty away from God, He is under no obligation to extend His help again. Never take God's patience and grace for granted. What are some temporary gains you are seeking (or have sought) to achieve? How have you experienced the consequences of disloyalty to God?

Walk

King Amaziah started well as he did what was right in the sight of the Lord. However, he never set his heart to be fully, unconditionally loyal toward God. There were times that he loyally obeyed God and experienced victory and blessing, but in times where he disobeyed and did what was right in his own eyes, he ended up defeated and experienced the terrible consequences of his disloyalty toward God.

Loyalty to God is often reflected in our actions. Our actions--our obedience to God--speak a lot about our relationship with Him and how much we anchor our trust in Him. Half-hearted loyalty is still no loyalty. Whatever our circumstance, unconditional loyalty causes us to stand with God. How much of God's character and promises do you know in order to remind you that He can be your help in whatever situation? Do you wholeheartedly obey God despite temporary loss, knowing He will surely make up those losses for you?

Worship & Prayer

Dear Lord, thank You for being a faithful God in whom we can anchor our loyalty. We ask for forgiveness for the many times that we have been disloyal to You, by finding our help in other means and also in times when we focus our attention on temporary gains. We pray that we do not test Your patience and grace, to the point that we will need to suffer loss for us to learn how to be loyalty to You. Rather, it is our humble desire to remain faithful and loyal in our obedience regardless of our circumstance, knowing that You are the God who can be our help and the God who can bless us exceedingly and abundantly beyond any loss, whether it be in this life or the next. May our actions speak and be a bold testament of our allegiance to You alone. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.