

Kings & Kingdoms #7
The Pitfall of Neglect

Word

Scripture Reference

2 Chronicles 29-31

Discussion Questions

1. Which of these two statements about relationships would you say is truer for you, "Distance makes the heart grow fonder" or "Out of sight, out of mind"?
2. There is a direct correlation between the heart and the action of a person. The action of neglect is indicative of a heart that didn't care about God. King Hezekiah was one who cared much about God and wanted the people to not neglect God (ch. 29:10-11). He knew that spiritual negligence is not a small matter. What happens when something is neglected?
3. **Doing Something Without Gladness or Joy in One's Heart (29:29-30).** In King Hezekiah's reign, the first thing he did was to repair the house of God. When the temple was open again and the priesthood was restored, the people were now able to offer sacrifices and offerings to God. And they did so with gladness in their hearts as they worshipped God. Oftentimes, many people do not find worshipping God to be enjoyable, whether it be in private or corporate worship. It is easily neglected for other things that are "more enjoyable." Do you gladly participate in the corporate worship of God? How about your personal worship, do you regularly do so and find joy doing it? How can you develop a joyful heart and be more consistent?
4. **Doing Something Out of Sense of Obligation Without a Willing Heart (29:31-35).** After the people offered their mandatory sacrifices, they were given the opportunity to give thanksgiving offerings, in which they have the option to participate or not. Overwhelmingly, the people voluntarily gave an abundance, to the point that the priests needed other Levites to do the job. The people offered out of a willing heart. Things done out of obligation are the easiest to neglect, especially when the chance to do so comes. But the things done out of a willing heart gets accomplished in the most excellent of ways. It makes a difference. What is your heart condition in giving of your time and resources for God? What are some things you realize you do for God but out of a sense of obligation? What can you do to overcome this attitude and cultivate a willing heart?
5. **No united purpose or conviction to obey God (30:1, 6, 9-12).** King Hezekiah invited the northern tribes of Israel to join and worship with them. Though the king's messengers were mocked and laughed at by many, God blessed them as

they are unified and have purposed to worship and obey Him. Historically, the northern tribes of Israel did not follow the prescriptions God has set and devised their preferences. They have not purposed to abide with God and thus have neglected their obedience to God as a nation. It is easy to disregard/neglect God when you are not purposed or do not have the conviction to obey Him. If something is not intentional, then it is negotiable. And if something is negotiable, then it is neglected. When was a time that your obedience became negotiable? What area/s in your life do you need to be more intentional in your obedience to God? What are some ways that can help strengthen our conviction/s?

6. **Not Actively Doing What is Right (Only Passively Not Doing What is Wrong) (31:1).** The people of Israel who participated in King Hezekiah's spiritual revival broke down and destroyed all the idols and altars that exist in Judah, and even in Benjamin, Ephraim, and Manasseh. They did not settle with not doing what was wrong, but have actively done what was right. Many Christians are simply contented to just avoid doing what is wrong, while very few proactively take the next step to boldly do and/or speak up for what is right. Passivity leads to neglect. The enemy may not push us to reject God, but he keeps us passive to the point of neglect. Share an instance wherein you became passive rather than proactive to do what was right. How could that situation have been different if you actively did your part? What are some current issues that are necessary for Christians to proactively participate in by speaking up and/or doing what is right?

Walk

In King Hezekiah's leadership, he turned around a generation back to worship and obey God. He was used by God to cause a spiritual revival by enforcing spiritual reform in the lives of the people. He led by example and dedication out of his love for God. Hence, his people was greatly challenged and moved to return to God and not neglect Him. As believers, we are not exempted from the possibility to disregard God. And in order not to fall into the pitfall of neglect, we must remember to look after our hearts. That in whatever we do for God, we are to cultivate both a gladness as well as a willingness of heart. Spiritual negligence can be avoided when we strongly purpose in our hearts to obey God and actively do what is right. How about you? What is your attitude toward the things you do for God? Are you doing them with a glad and willing heart? How are your convictions? Do you purpose to obey God with singleness of heart? Will you make a stand and be more proactive to do what is right and overcome passivity?

Worship & Prayer

Dear Lord, thank You for being a God who is unchanging and never neglects us. We ask for forgiveness for the times when we did things for You with a heavy and unwilling heart. We pray that from this time on, we would be strengthening our convictions and purpose in our hearts to obey you fully, and not selectively. Give us the boldness to do what is right, and settle into the mediocrity of passivity. Make us stand for You as You have made a stand for us. May our actions indeed communicate a bold statement to the world around us of how important You are in our life. In Jesus name we pray, Amen