

Kings & Kingdoms #11
The Pitfall of Inattention

Word

Scripture Reference

2 Chronicles 35

Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever experienced getting into trouble because you didn't pay attention to what you were doing? Share with the group.
2. No matter how important your message is, people will miss it unless you have their attention. And it's when you have tuned out that you get into trouble. It's in the pitfall of inattention or neglect that people end up bad in a bad situation. How do we avoid falling into this pit? Read 2 Chronicles 35. In chapter 34, the people of God led by King Josiah rediscovered the Word of God while refurbishing the temple. They found out from the Word of God that they had to keep the Passover feast as prescribed to the Jewish people (35:1-2). Passover is the greatest memorial feast of Israel, remembering their freedom from slavery in Egypt centuries before. It was when God spared the eldest son of every family when an angel of the Lord passed over every home marked that had the blood of a lamb on the doorpost. In preparation for the Passover feast King Josiah was very involved in every detail. From this we can learn four Biblical principles for how we are to pay attention to these areas of life so that we also can finish well and avoid the pitfall of inattention. What did King Josiah admonish the people to do in verse 3? Why was the sacred ark not in the temple? Discuss why people parade their gods around their community even to this day, which is definitely not prescribed in the scripture.
3. In preparation for the Passover feast, King Josiah was making sure that everything was put in their proper place. He wanted to make sure that there was decorum in the things of God. The first attention that you should learn from King Josiah is to put things where they belong (have proper decorum) because actions determine attitude (v.4-5). It seems that our generation doesn't have proper decorum (respect) for the things of God. Discuss in what ways are these true in the actions and attitude of many people. What happens when people no longer respect but belittle the things of God? Discuss how your actions determine your values? What happens when a person does not value the things of God?
4. The second attention to detail that you can learn from King Josiah is to follow what is written in the Bible (v.4-6). As they prepare for the Passover feast, King Josiah wanted everything done by the book to the smallest detail. What are the specific details that the Bible is instructing you to do? Are you living your life

according to the Word of God? Why is it freeing to know how God wants you to live?

5. The third attention that you should be aware of is to provide for no excuses and no exceptions in your spiritual life (7-19). When everyone saw how generous the king was, they also gave generously. Through the initial example of King Josiah he showed that he wanted everyone to participate in the Passover feast celebration. No one had the excuse to not participate. What are the usual excuses of some people so that they don't have to participate in the Christian life? How does participation help you to pay attention and be involved and engaged in Christian life?
6. The fourth attention that you should not miss out is to listen to the advice of others as wise counsel from God (v.20-27). After King Josiah had set the temple in order, Necho king of Egypt went up to fight at Carchemish on the Euphrates, and King Josiah marched out to meet him in battle. What did Necho's messenger tell King Josiah in verse 21? What should Josiah have done when he heard the message? How did his life end as a result of his inattention? Do you pay attention to those whom God sends to save you from trouble? Instead of ignoring the advices of your parents and friends, do you filter them through the Word of God?

Walk

Falling into the pitfall of inattention can be avoided when you put things where they belong because actions determine attitude, when you follow what is written in the Bible, when you provide no excuses and exceptions in your spiritual life and when you listen to the advice of others as wise council from God. How do you respect the things of God? Do you live by the Word of God? Living by the book doesn't only keep you from falling into the pit but empower you how to live. Do you live in the sideline of faith and give excuses not to live out your faith? Do you listen to the advice of others whom God has clearly sent your way to keep you from trouble? Sometimes, it is just a little thing that would draw you to fall into the pit. Be warned.

Worship & Prayer

Father, thank You for Your Word. Thank You for reminding me that You're not only the God of big things, but of little things as well. Forgive me for the times I've taken for granted things, behaviors, that I thought were not important. But the fact that You specifically mention how I ought to live in Your Word means that You think it's important. Help me gain the sensitivity to hear what You tell me, be it big or small and no matter through whom You choose to tell me, so that I may learn how to act accordingly. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.