

On Sunday we considered the reign of Jehoash in 2 Kings 12, with the fuller account of his later years in 2 Chronicles 24. We saw a king who received faithful instruction and restored the temple, yet eventually turned from the Lord. His life reminded us that godly instruction must take root in personal faith, that faithful worship bears fruit in willing service, and that a good beginning does not remove our need to persevere. As we examined our own hearts, we also looked to Jesus Christ, the faithful King who died for our sins and the living High Priest who will never leave His people without His care.

Monday: A Faith That Takes Root

Scripture Reading: 2 Timothy 3:14–17

Jehoash had someone to teach him the truth. Jehoiada had protected him as a child and instructed him as a king. We should never pass over that kindness lightly. A person who opens the Scriptures with us, prays for us, and helps us recognize what is right is a gift from God. Many of us can name someone whose patient instruction has shaped our lives.

But another person cannot believe for us. Paul reminded Timothy of the Scriptures he had known since childhood, then urged him to continue in what he had learned and believed. Those Scriptures directed him to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. Familiarity with the Bible was meant to bring him to the Savior and keep teaching him how to live as His servant.

That is a searching word for those of us who have spent years around the church. We may know the hymns, recognize the stories, and appreciate faithful preaching while giving little attention to the Lord during the week. The answer is to come to Christ ourselves, bringing our sin and need to Him. His grace welcomes everyone who comes in faith, including those who have long mistaken familiarity for trust.

Today, take a few quiet minutes with the passage above. Read it slowly and ask the Lord to help you understand and obey it. You do not need to become independent of your brothers and sisters to grow in faith. We need one another. But the help we give and receive should lead us together toward a deeper dependence on Jesus.

Reflection Questions

1. Who has helped you understand God's Word, and how could you thank God for that person today?
2. When you face a difficult decision, do you seek the Lord in Scripture and prayer, or rely entirely on someone else's judgment?
3. What time today could you set aside to read this passage and respond to God in prayer?

Prayer

Father, thank You for the people who have taught me Your Word. Forgive me for becoming familiar with holy things while neglecting fellowship with You. Bring Your truth deep into my heart through faith in Jesus Christ. By Your Spirit, teach me to read, believe, and obey what You have spoken. Keep me growing alongside Your people in humble dependence on You. Amen.

Tuesday: What We Leave Standing

Scripture Reading: 2 Kings 12:1–3

The opening of Jehoash's reign gives us reason for hope, but verse three interrupts that hope with a troubling detail. The high places remained. Worship continued in places that should have been removed. There was much to commend in the king's early years, yet important areas of disobedience were left unaddressed.

We can recognize something of ourselves here. There may be a resentment we have carried so long that it now feels reasonable, a dishonest habit we excuse because it seems small, or a desire for approval that quietly governs our decisions. We may be willing to obey God in many things while protecting one familiar sin from His searching Word. Familiarity does not make that sin harmless.

Christ gave Himself to redeem us from sin and make us His own. Because

forgiveness rests on His finished work, we can stop defending what needs to be confessed. We do not need to make ourselves presentable before approaching Him. We come truthfully, asking for both pardon and the Spirit's help to turn away from what dishonors our Savior.

Consider one thing you have been reluctant to surrender. Name it plainly before the Lord. Perhaps repentance means seeking forgiveness, changing a habit, or asking a trusted Christian to help you resist a temptation. The first step may feel uncomfortable, but your Savior is kind. He calls you away from what harms you and into the freedom of walking with Him.

Reflection Questions

1. What sin have you begun to excuse because it has been present in your life for so long?
2. How does Christ's willingness to forgive help you be honest about that sin?
3. What concrete act of repentance could you take today, and who could help you follow through?

Prayer

Merciful Father, You see the sins I have learned to excuse. Forgive me through the blood of Jesus Christ and give me an honest heart before You. Help me surrender what I have been unwilling to release. Strengthen me by Your Spirit to take the next step of obedience. Teach me to trust Your goodness when repentance is costly. Amen.

Wednesday: The Work Before Us

Scripture Reading: 2 Kings 12:4–15

The temple needed repairs, and Jehoash had given instructions for the work. Yet by the twenty-third year of his reign, the repairs remained undone. We are not told every reason for the delay. We are shown that recognizing a need and agreeing that something should happen had not been enough to accomplish it.

Most of us know what that is like. We mean to visit someone who is lonely, offer help, restore a neglected habit of prayer, or make peace after an argument. Sometimes our limitations are real, and we need wisdom about what we can do. At other times, we simply keep moving a clear duty into tomorrow. Good

intentions can become a comfortable place to hide from obedience.

Our standing with God does not depend on finishing a list of religious tasks. Jesus has accomplished the work of our redemption, and we receive His righteousness by faith. That settled acceptance gives us freedom to serve. We can begin with the duty before us without trying to prove our worth or accomplish everything at once.

Eventually the money was put into the hands of those doing the repairs, and the work moved forward. Carpenters, builders, masons, and stonecutters all had a part. Their ordinary labor served the worship of God. Your own service may be just as quiet: a meal prepared, a promise kept, a visit made. Ask the Lord what faithfulness requires of you today, then undertake it with the strength He supplies.

Reflection Questions

1. What good responsibility have you repeatedly postponed, even though you know it needs attention?
2. Are you held back by a real limitation, fear of failure, or simple reluctance, and what help do you need?
3. What manageable step could you take today as a grateful response to Christ's grace?

Prayer

Lord, forgive me for the times I have substituted good intentions for obedience. Thank You that Jesus has completed the work on which my salvation rests. Give me wisdom to recognize the duties You have placed before me. Supply the strength and willingness to carry them out with love. Receive my ordinary service for the good of Your people and the honor of Your name. Amen.

Thursday: A People Built Together

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 2:19–22

Repairing the temple was worthwhile work. The place appointed for worship had suffered neglect and needed care. Our sermon reminded us that caring for the place where we gather is also a worthy responsibility. A clean room, a sound roof, and a welcoming space can all serve the life of a congregation.

Paul helps us see the people gathered beneath that roof with greater wonder. Those who belong to Jesus are members of God's household. Together we are being built into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit, with Christ Himself as the cornerstone. The church's life rests on Him, and each believer belongs among the people He has brought near to the Father.

That truth should shape the attention we give one another. The person whose preferences differ from yours, the member who needs patient encouragement, and the believer whose weakness interrupts your plans all belong to the household Christ loves. We can take great care over a building while overlooking the person sitting beside us. Remembering what Jesus has done for that person helps restore our sight.

As you think about gathering for worship again, consider someone you could encourage. You might ask how they are doing and leave enough time to hear the answer. You might pray with them or follow up on a burden they shared. These acts of care belong to the life of a people among whom God is pleased to dwell.

Reflection Questions

1. How does belonging to God's household change the way you view the other members of your church?
2. Have concerns about preferences or appearances distracted you from someone's spiritual or practical needs?
3. Whom could you encourage before the congregation gathers again?

Prayer

Father, thank You for bringing us into Your household through Jesus Christ. Teach me to love the people He has redeemed. Forgive my impatience and the times I have overlooked a brother or sister in need. By Your Spirit, make our congregation a place of faithful worship, truth, and generous care. Help me contribute to that life through the opportunities You give me today. Amen.

Friday: Mercy That Calls Us Back

Scripture Reading: 2 Chronicles 24:17–22

After Jehoiada died, Jehoash listened to the princes of Judah, and the king and his people abandoned the worship of the Lord. Their rebellion was serious, and

God's anger was righteous. Yet the Lord sent prophets to bring them back. Even as His Word exposed their guilt, His messengers were calling them to return.

Correction can be difficult to receive, especially when it touches something we want to protect. We may question the speaker's motives or rehearse all the things we have done well. Jehoash carried that resistance to a terrible end when he ordered the death of Zechariah, the son of the very priest who had cared for him. His story warns us about the danger of refusing to listen when God confronts our sin.

When Scripture corrects us, we should hear it with the seriousness it deserves. We should also remember the mercy of the God who speaks. He has sent His own Son to save sinners. Jesus bore the judgment His people deserved, so that everyone who turns to Him in faith receives forgiveness. We have every reason to come honestly and no good reason to delay.

Perhaps a passage of Scripture or a faithful friend's concern has been troubling your conscience. Examine that concern in the light of God's Word. If it is true, receive it, confess your sin, and seek the Lord's help to make things right. A humbled heart can give thanks that God has not left it undisturbed on a destructive path.

Reflection Questions

1. How do you usually respond when someone raises a truthful concern about your conduct?
2. Is there a correction from Scripture that you have been resisting or postponing?
3. What would receiving that correction with faith in Christ look like today?

Prayer

Patient Father, thank You for speaking to me when I would rather avoid the truth. Forgive my pride and my resistance to correction. Keep me from hardening my heart against Your Word. Turn me again toward Jesus, who bore the judgment of His people and welcomes repentant sinners. Give me humility to listen and courage to make things right. Amen.

Saturday: The Priest Who Lives

Forever

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 7:23–25

Jehoiada's death left an absence in Jehoash's life that no human adviser could adequately fill. The priest had been faithful, but his long years of service eventually ended. Some of us know the sorrow of losing someone whose prayers and wisdom helped steady us. Their absence can make the road ahead feel much less certain.

Hebrews directs us to a Priest whose ministry will never end. Jesus holds His priesthood permanently because He lives forever. Having offered Himself for our sins and risen from the dead, He continues to intercede for those who draw near to God through Him. His care for His people has no final day.

That is where our hope of continuing faithfully must rest. Jehoash's life warns us against being satisfied with a promising beginning. We need the Lord today, and we will need Him tomorrow. Christ meets that need with a finished sacrifice and an unending priesthood. Everyone who comes to God through Him has a Savior able to save completely.

So we can take the warnings of this week seriously without giving way to despair. Draw near to God again. Open His Word, confess your sins, seek the fellowship of His people, and ask for grace to obey. These are ordinary ways of living in dependence on the Savior who keeps us. As we prepare to worship together, we come with confidence in the King who remains faithful.

Reflection Questions

1. Whose absence has made it harder for you to feel steady in your faith?
2. What comfort does Christ's unending intercession bring to your particular fears about the future?
3. How will you prepare to gather with God's people in renewed dependence on Jesus?

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for the faithful people through whom You have cared for me. Comfort me where their absence still brings sorrow. Fix my hope on Jesus Christ, whose priesthood will never end. Keep me near to You through Your

Word, prayer, and the fellowship of Your people. By Your preserving grace, help me continue faithfully to the end. Amen.