

Sermon: The Power To Help

Text: 2 Chronicles 25

Introduction:

Wholeheartedness is such an important quality to find in a person. It means to be completely and sincerely devoted. A person who is wholehearted is determined and enthusiastic. They are free from all reserve or hesitation.

The opposite of wholeheartedness is doublemindedness. A double-minded person is restless and confused in their thoughts, their actions, and their behavior. Such a person is always in conflict with themselves. The Book of James states that a person who is full of doubts is, “like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That person should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does (James 1:6-8). A doubter is a double-minded person. Jesus had in mind such a person when He spoke of the one who tries to serve two masters (Matthew 6:24). As such, he is “unstable,” which comes from a Greek word meaning “unsteady, wavering, in both his character and feelings.” The term “unstable” is analogous to a drunken person who is unable to walk a straight line—swaying one way then another. They have no defined direction and as a result don’t get anywhere. Such a person is “unstable in all they do.”

It makes me think of a picture I saw earlier today. The picture was of the three women who qualified for the Olympics from the USA in the hammer throw. They were on the awards stand, listening to the national anthem. The women who placed first and second were standing at attention, and giving honor to our country and to the flag. The woman who came in third was facing the other direction—and clearly standing in protest. The first and second place finishers were wholehearted in their devotion to our country, and seemed genuinely enthusiastic to represent our country in the Olympics. The third place finisher seemed double-minded. She had the appearance of a person who was restless and confused—in conflict with herself. Here she was—standing to represent her country in athletic competition. And yet she couldn’t bring herself to show honor to her countries national anthem and flag.

This morning, we are looking at the life of King Amaziah in 2 Chronicles 25. We are told in verses 1-2: “Amaziah was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem twenty-nine years. His mother’s name was Jehoaddan; she was from Jerusalem. He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, but not wholeheartedly.” Amaziah was double-minded. He might have done some good things—but he wasn’t doing them with all his heart.

And as the chapter unfolds...we see how his lack of wholeheartedness leads to some terrible consequences in his life.

Examination:

- **Read 2 Chronicles 25**
 - How old was Amaziah, when he began to reign?
 - How long did he reign?
 - Amaziah did that which was _____ in the sight of the LORD. What do you think this means?
 - Who did Amaziah kill, as soon as he was established in his kingdom?

- Why did he not kill their families?
- How many men of war in Judah and Jerusalem did he bring together?
- Who did he hire to help his troops?
- What message did the man of God bring him?
- What does verse 8 say, God has the power to do?
- What question did Amaziah ask the prophet of God? What was the answer he gave? (v. 9)
- How did the Israelites, who had been hired, feel about being sent home?
- How many did Amaziah smite at the Dead Sea?
- The soldiers that Amaziah sent back, did what, instead of going home?
- What terrible thing did Amaziah do, when he came from the slaughter of the Edomites? (v. 14)
- What message did God send Amaziah by a prophet?
- Why did Amaziah want to go to war again? Who does he challenge to a war?
- What did Joash, King of Israel tell him he should do?
- Where did the two kings meet in battle? Who won? Why? (v. 25)
- What did the king of Israel take from Jerusalem?
- How long did Amaziah live, after Joash of Israel?
- How, and where, was Amaziah killed?

Application:

Do a little personal inventory with respect to your own heart.

- Would you consider yourself to be wholehearted in terms of your love for God?
- Are there choices that you are currently making that would lead to the conclusion that you are NOT wholehearted?
- Would anyone describe you as double-minded with respect to your faith in God?
- There you stand on that awards podium—as you will one day stand before God Himself. How well have you competed to win the prize that awaits you?