



A Worthy Inheritance: Character

BY: Chris Harper, AD

"Jotham grew powerful because he walked steadfastly before the Lord his God." – 2 Chronicles 27:6

It is often said "like father, like son," but as many of us know, or have experienced, this is not always the case. The Bible, such is life, is full of instances

Jotham, son of Uzziah, (2 Chronicles 27:2) became a mighty King, leading Judah against the Ammonites (vs. 5) and growing in power because he was steadfast in the ways of his Lord (vs. 6). Jotham ruled Judah in a way that was pleasing to God and, in doing so, brought God

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where piety, virtue and goodness are not genetic. Instances where these things don't run from "blood to blood." As parents, we may pass to our children crowns, thrones and kingdoms, but the high moral and religious qualities which make men kings among men do not always accompany the bloodlines.

honor. Jotham positioned Judah for triumph and success (vs. 5).

Jotham followed, he ruled, he conquered, he built and, like all of us will one day, he died.

Enter Ahaz, Jotham's son. "Ahaz was twenty years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem sixteen years. Unlike David his father (Patriarch), he did not do

Upcoming events

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4/17 – HS Baseball vs. Borden, 5 p.m.

4/17 – MS Track at CAI, 5:30 p.m.

4/18 – Secret Church with David Platt, 7 p.m.

4/19 – MS Baseball (6th Grade) Double Header, 9 a.m.

4/19 – MS Baseball (8th Grade) Double Header, 12 p.m.

4/21 - HS Baseball at Henryville, 5:30 p.m.

4/22 – HS Track at New Albany

what was right in the eyes of the Lord. He followed the ways of the kings of Israel and also made idols for worshiping the Baals. He burned sacrifices in the Valley of Ben Hinnom and sacrificed his children in the fire, engaging in the detestable practices of the nations the Lord had driven out before the Israelites. He offered sacrifices and burned incense at the high places, on the hilltops and under every spreading tree." – 2 Chronicles 28:1-4

Everything Jotham did in preparation for the long-term success of Judah was gone in an instant. Ahaz moved in and "there went the neighborhood."

What was the difference? Jotham served God, but Ahaz served himself. Character is revealed, not in who you are, but in whom it is you serve.

Do you teach your children to serve God or serve themselves? The Journal of Personality and Social Psychology recently posted a study that showed

"Millennials—those born after Jan. 1, 1982—are much more likely than Baby Boomers (now aged 50+) to value money, image and fame than things like self-acceptance, community and the environment." The study went on to define our new narcissistic culture, and has even coined a new term that describes the social science behind this self-involved culture called the "Generation Me Hypothesis."

Ahaz served himself. He longed for acceptance and worked hard at self-preservation, and because of such Ahaz would do whatever was necessary to achieve those things. Even sacrificing his own son by fire (2 Kings 16:3).

Johnny Lee wrote a country hit some years ago titled "Looking for love in all the wrong places." This was Ahaz's problem and I believe it to also be very problematic today. Today's youth look for love, acceptance, peace and to

fill a myriad of other physical and emotional needs, but they are looking for these things in all the wrong places.

Jotham looked to God, and Jotham's character was defined precisely by what he looked at. His focus was on God and his focus was God. Therefore, his character was defined by and supported with the full glory and blessings found in God.

Where are your children looking today? Where are you teaching your children to look?

Look no further than the word of God and Son of God, Jesus Christ. There you find character, a character pleasing to God.

Be well,

C. Harper