

Joash Stored the Oil

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from Internet Sources)

Introduction:

- A. 1Chron. 27:25-34 - Chosen for the work - 1Cor. 12:5-11
- B. Lessons learned from the king:
 - 1. Each person has a place of special service - Eph. 4:16
 - 2. Each person was called by name - Isa. 49:16; Matt. 10:29-32
 - 3. Each person served in different capacities - John 3:25-27
 - 4. Each person was placed where the king wanted them - Eph. 4:10-13
 - 5. Each person was chosen based on what he could do, not on who he was in the past
- C. David's choices foreshadowed somewhat Jesus' choices for apostles
 - 1. Shimei the Ramathite was over the vineyards - of Ramath Gilead, a border nation subject to Israel
 - 2. Zabdi the Shiphmite was over the produce of the vineyards for the supply of wine - of Shepham, a border city subject to Israel
 - 3. Baal-Hanan the Gederite was over the olive trees and the sycamore trees that were in the lowlands - from Geder, probably born a pagan
 - 4. Shitrai the Sharonite was over the herds that fed in Sharon - a Canaanite native
 - 5. Obil the Ishmaelite was over the camels - Arabic descendent of Ismael
 - 6. Jehdeiah the Meronothite was over the donkeys - from Meronoth of Gibeon, a descendent of those who deceived Joshua
 - 7. Jaziz the Hagrite was over the flocks - an Arabic descendent of Ishmael
 - 8. Jehonathan, David's uncle, was a counselor, a wise man, and a scribe - began as a rural farmer with no royal or even urban experience
 - 9. Jehiel the son of Hachmoni was with the king's sons - probably a Gentile proselyte
 - 10. Hushai the Archite was the king's companion - from south of Ephraim, of the tribe that was the most immoral and the first to turn to paganism. Hushai was honorable and loyal
 - 11. Ahithophel was the king's counselor - the one truly Jewish person with a long pedigree and an honorable name (brother of God); ended up betraying David by deserting to Absalom's side
- C. Lessons learned from Joash, the oil man
 - 1. He served his king in a storage cave, probably like a cellar
 - 2. He served his king in solitude, away from the glory of the court
 - 3. He served his king in a place out of sight with little potential for notice

I. JOASH'S JOB DESCRIPTION

- A. Keep the oil - The oil referred to here is olive oil, very important in that day.
 - 1. Oil was used in the practice of the Jewish faith
 - a. In the "meat offering" - Lev. 2:1
 - b. In the "trespass offering" - Lev. 7
 - c. In the ceremonial cleansing of a leper - Lev. 14
 - d. In the anointing ritual for the priesthood - Ex. 29

2. Oil was used to anoint kings - 1Sam. 16:13
 3. Oil was used as fuel for the menorah - Ex. 27:20; and in the homes of ordinary people
 4. Oil was a major commercial commodity - 1Kings 5:11; 2Kings 4
 5. Oil was used as a medicine - Luke 10:34; James 5:14
 6. Oil was used for cooking - 1Kings 17
 7. Oil was used as a base for cosmetics - Matt. 26:7
- B. He was expected to remain at his post; it was what David appointed him to do
1. 1Cor. 4:2 - If you want to be found pleasing to the Lord, keep doing the last thing you learned from His Will until you learn something more.
 2. No one may see or appreciate the things you do, but there is a God in Heaven Who sees and knows what you do.
- C. He was to guard the oil; none may be missing - 1Tim. 1:11, 6:20; 1Cor. 16:13
2. Illustration: The ancient city of Sardis sat on top of a plateau 1,500 feet high. Sardis a very wealthy and powerful city that became complacent in their power and the city's apparent invincibility. When it came under attack by Cyrus the Persian, the king and people retreated to their city, believing they were safe. One night, a Persian soldier saw one of the Sardinian soldiers accidentally drop his helmet over the wall of the city. He watched as that soldier followed a hidden path down the side of the mountain to retrieve his helmet. When nightfall came, Cyrus and his troops followed that same hidden path up the side of the mountain, entered the city while the guards slept, and overwhelmed Sardis. The church there was also cautioned to "watch," Rev. 3:1-2. It didn't, and like the city before it, the church in Sardis fell into the hands of the enemy while the saints slept. The same thing can happen right here.

II. JOASH'S JOB DIFFICULTIES

- A. His work was unnoticed; in all likelihood, he worked in a large cellar or cave apart from others
1. He did it for his king, not for the glory - Matt. 6:1-6, 25:21
 2. Our reward is coming - Gal. 6:9; Rev. 22:12
- B. His work was uncomfortable. How pleasant can it be working in a cellar?
1. Not every task we must do in the kingdom is pleasant - Matt. 16:24
- C. His work was lonely. I wonder how often he saw others in the oil cellar.
1. Paul's desire to depart this world - Phil. 1:12-24
 2. Grow where you are planted.

III. JOASH'S JOB DEMANDS

- A. Stay in your place until the king calls - Luke 21:34-36
- B. Don't relax your vigil for any reason - Neh. 6:1-4
- C. Obey the king - 1Sam. 15:22; John 14:15

IV. JOASH'S JOB DEVELOPMENTS

- A. He was humble - Psalm 84:10
- B. He was helpful - Ex. 17:12
- C. He was hopeful - Prov. 8:34