

# GOD HONORS

## 2 KINGS 12:1-16

1. When you make a to-do list, how do you decide which task needs to be done next?
2. What does the criteria used say about your priorities? (What is really important.)
3. What's your favorite distraction when you're putting off accomplishing a needed task? (Checking the back side of my eyelids!)

Second Kings 8-11 records the rule of several kings from both Judah and Israel. Chapter 11 gives us the context of today's study in 2 Kings 12:1-16.

(Give a summary of chapter 11 or have a class member be prepared to give the summary.)

### Read 2 Kings 12:1-3

1. Why do you think Joash turned out to be a good king? (See verse 2.)
2. How was he like all the other kings? (See verse 3.)

In 2 Chronicles 24:4, we read, "Joash took it to heart to renovate the LORD's temple." This is where we enter the account of Joash in today's study—looking for how Joash responded to the neglected temple repairs.

### PROBLEM! Read 2 Kings 12:4-8

The King's initial plan was to use the "census silver, silver from vows, and all silver voluntarily given for the Lord's temple." The priests were to take the funds and repair the building.

1. How big is the issue of procrastination? (Years ago, a very famous preacher surveyed the Bible to discover the most important words in Scripture. He came to the conclusion that the most dangerous word in the Bible was: Tomorrow. It has the ability to rob dreamers of their dreams. It also keeps people from coming to Christ. Felix told Paul, "not today.")
2. What are some of the dangers of procrastination in our spiritual lives? (Delayed obedience is disobedience. If we put off witnessing, someone may never hear the gospel.)
3. Why might it be difficult for Joash to confront Jehoiada?
4. What potential problems existed with the plan in place? (There didn't seem to be anyone designated to supervise and see the work actually was accomplished. There was no mention of when to start and a completion time. No one took the "bull by the horns" and started the work.)
5. What happens when we continue to ignore problems? (We hope ignoring a problem will make it go away, but typically the issue only gets worse by doing so.)
6. Does God care if our church buildings are shabby? (Read Haggi 1:3-4. There is a balance between taking care of our buildings and funding missions. By the way, our church does an excellent job with this balance, but I know of churches that use all their funds on the home front with nothing for missions.)

Dr. Oswald J. Smith used to say, "The light that shines the farthest will shine the brightest at home." Balance is the key.

7. What factors should be considered when confronting others about addressing problems? (We should always seek to do what is right for all parties in the LORD's sight. Not addressing a problem immediately isn't fair to anyone.)

Joash made a new plan for getting the temple repair work done, and Jehoiada and the other priests supported his plan.

### SOLUTION! Read 2 Kings 12:9-12

1. What was the king's new plan to fund and repair the temple?

To solve the problem Joash instituted what we call a “Building Program” for the Temple. The people would give over and above their regular offerings to repair the Temple.

2. What accountability measures were put in place? (The king’s secretary and the High Priest would count the money together and give it to the overseer of the remodeling project.)
3. What indication do we see that the people supported the project? (The chest was filled on a regular basis and the work continued to make progress.)
4. How are a person’s financial practices an extension of his or her priorities? (It has been said, “Show me your checkbook and I’ll tell you what your priorities are.”)

God expects people to solve problems and take care of their financial obligations.

In 2 Chronicles 24:10, we find these details: “All the leaders and all the people rejoiced, brought the tax, and put it in the chest until it was full.” The people gave joyfully and in abundance.

### **ACTION! Read 2 Kings 12:13-16**

1. What word stands out to you in these verses?
2. What is integrity and how was it demonstrated in these verses? (“The quality of being honest and having strong moral principles: moral uprightness.” Doing the right thing when no one is looking.) Items required for temple worship were paid out of the temple funds and not the money collected for the repairs. Some people call this a “freewill offering.”
3. How does the way a church or group of believers handles money and problems impact the spread of the gospel? (God expects us to display Christ in all we do—whether or not anyone else is watching. We can know we are behaving with integrity when we exhibit the kind of behavior that our families, coworkers, and church family can consistently trust.)

James 4:17 says, “So it is sin to know the good and yet not do it.”

4. How many “oh no’s” does it take to wipe out a lifetime of integrity? (Just one!)

### **SUMMARIZE AND CHALLENGE!**

How we solve our problems—money and people problems—is a way to model God’s values.

1. What is a tip you suggest for problem solving?
2. What is a tip you suggest for showing integrity?

God honors people who demonstrate His priorities in all areas of life. Jehoiada is a model of the kind of humble, God-centered service to which God calls us.

**Pray we will teach God’s Word to those who follow us.**