

Title: Like Father, Like Son: Building a Legacy That Lasts

Sermon Summary: Drawing from 2 Chronicles 20-21, this sermon examines the contrasting legacies of King Jehoshaphat and his son Jehoram.

Jehoshaphat modeled wholehearted devotion to God, led his people in worship even after victory, and sought the Lord in times of crisis. Yet his son Jehoram abandoned that heritage entirely and followed the wicked ways of Ahab. The sermon uses this contrast to challenge believers to examine what kind of spiritual legacy they are building, both for themselves and for those who come after them. Using 1 Corinthians 3, the pastor reminds the congregation that every person's work will be tested by fire, and only what is built on the foundation of Christ will survive. The call is to be kingdom-minded rather than earth-minded, to worship God not only in crisis but in peace, and to actively invest in the spiritual lives of those around us.

Key Points:

- Praise and worship should not cease once a crisis has passed; Jehoshaphat's people continued worshiping God even after the victory, to the point that the valley was named "Praise"
- Gratitude toward God should be expressed as loudly and for as long as we prayed in concern, giving Him full credit for every answered prayer
- The fear of God that came upon surrounding nations after Jehoshaphat's victory illustrates how genuine faith and God's faithfulness bear witness to the world
- Every believer is writing a legacy, whether intentional or not, and the quality of that legacy is measured by faithfulness to Christ rather than worldly success
- Jehoshaphat's failure to pass his faith on to his son Jehoram serves as a warning about the importance of actively discipling children and those within our sphere of influence
- Doing what is right in the eyes of the Lord, rather than in one's own eyes or the world's eyes, must be the standard for every believer's choices
- According to 1 Corinthians 3, each person's spiritual work will be tested by fire at the day of Christ's return, and only what is built on the foundation of

Jesus Christ will be rewarded

- Believers are called to sacrificial, kingdom-focused living, not as a path to poverty, but as a reorientation of priorities away from earthly things and toward eternal ones
- The body of Christ should lovingly hold one another accountable, speaking truth in private and in gentleness when a brother or sister appears to be going astray

Scripture Reference:

- 2 Chronicles 20:24-21:13 (the conclusion of Jehoshaphat's reign and the beginning of Jehoram's)
- 1 Corinthians 3:9-17 (Paul's teaching on building on the foundation of Christ and the fire that will test each person's work)
- Deuteronomy 6 (the command to speak of the Lord continually to one's children)
- Luke 17 (the ten lepers, one of whom returned to give thanks)
- Revelation 2-3 (Christ's declaration that He knows each person's deeds)

Stories:

- The account of Jehoshaphat's army praising God as they went into battle, God routing three enemy armies against one another, and the people spending three days collecting plunder before gathering in the Valley of Barakah to praise the Lord
- The ten lepers healed by Jesus, of whom only one returned to give thanks, used to illustrate the importance of returning to God with gratitude after receiving His blessing
- King David dancing before the Ark of the Covenant with such abandon that his wife Michal rebuked him, and David's response that he would rejoice even more, used to illustrate uninhibited worship
- Rahab's testimony in Jericho and the fear that had come upon the Canaanites because of what they had heard about Israel's God, used to illustrate how God's faithfulness becomes a witness to surrounding nations
- Gideon overhearing the fears of the Midianite soldiers before battle, used to illustrate how God's reputation precedes His people
- The parable of the talents, referenced briefly to illustrate the consequences of burying rather than investing what God has given

- The story of Pilate yielding to the crowd despite declaring Jesus innocent, used to illustrate the danger of letting public pressure override what one knows to be true