

October 13, 2002

## The Investment

Opening

### Church Bulletin Bloopers

#### Introduction:

This Message is entitled The Investment ... so you have a heads up on where we are going today with this message The New World Dictionary has this as one of several meanings for investment ... To cover, surround, to envelope as if with a garment

Text: **2 Chronicles 24**

**Background :** The books called Kings and Chronicles are the history of the executive leaders of the nation of Israel ... one nation divided into two Israel and Judah

Joash was the infant son of **King Ahaziah** (bad news for the nation and people of Judah) After his violent death, his mother **Athaliah** seized the power of the throne and had all of the royal line murdered including her own grandchildren.

Only the infant Joash was saved and hidden by **Jehoida** the priest and his wife for the first seven years that Athaliah made herself the ruling Queen.

In the seventh year of Athaliah's reign, Jehoida prepares to overthrow the Queen, relying on his faith in God, years of experience, and his position as priest.

He risks all to what he knew had to be done, topple the Queen who in a short time had corrupted and polluted the nation. The Coup is successful, the Queen is executed and a new king is coronated, 7-year-old Joash.

**Read 2 Chronicles 24: 1,2**

Did you pick that little note up? "... all the days of Jehoida's life." Not his own

Consider what it means to have a seven-year as the head of the State. I remember my seventh birthday. It was a Friday I couldn't wait to get home from school ...

Some of you have children that age and many have had children older who remember that age. Can you see your child take on such a responsibility?

Illustration

I had some fun with one eight-grade class on Friday, trying to knit past events to their present grasp of life.

We studied several documents called **primary sources** ... original documents on the topic of U.S. Immigration in the early 1900's. One document was a photograph of an entire family working at a table in their home doing peace meal work.

One student noticed that the girls were wearing, what he called nice clothes ... dresses

I explained that girls and women did not wear pants in those days, social customs of the times.

They were surprised at this, so I pointed out the difference between regular boys and girls bicycles ... this also seemed to baffle them never having thought about it.

Then I hit them with it, boys were not allowed to wear pants either. The class grew deadly silent,

Finally Collin one of my tough guys asked the question everyone else was waiting for, What did they wear?

I couldn't resist the moment, nothing-just underwear, I replied.

**Eyes opened wide, mouths dropped definitely a Kodak moment ... I am still trying to figure out how to get that kind attention on a regular basis.**

I explained about something called Knickers but did not have the heart to tell the boys that they would have been dressed in skirts at an early age.

### Back to Joash

Picture the kind of help a seven-year-old king would need on an hourly not to mention daily basis.

This is what Jehoida the Priest did for young Joash. They became more than friends they had to have had the relationship of family.

But that phrase is disturbing, *Joash did what was pleasing in the Lord's sight all the days of Jehoida.*

Most notably he set out to restore the temple of the Lord that had been ravaged during the years of his father's ruler ship. His method for raising funds for the project gave the people of the nation a chance to share in the project.

Read **verse 14** "... *during the life of Jehoida.*" The Holy Spirit, engineer of this book is dropping us a strong hint

Read **verses 17-21**

So what is the Deal with Joash? After the death of Jehoida he goes so far as to even murder Zechariah the son of his friend. ???

The saying is ... Bad company corrupts good morals. Believe it! But is that enough in itself?

**Leadership is essential!** Anyone who is a NY Jets fan can attest to that. Bad example any one who studied the Battles of the American Civil War can attest to the difference leaders made in that war.

Leadership is needed at all levels children, teens, adults, parents, siblings, family, work, recreation, government, society, church

Good leadership shapes and molds provides solid examples of the right things to do ... the right relationships to have and continue to maintain

Thank you Lou and Anne Potter, George and Betty Brown, Jerry and Ann Bonfiglio, Nick and Corinne Franco and so many off the rest of you single or married that have stood up to provide leadership for your family and friends.

Thank you Jennifer Mercurio for sacrificing your comfort leaving home in the Midwest to come and make a home here for our children and myself.

Think about that word investment again.

Our society built on materialism and capitalism ties investment to profit. Stocks, bonds, 401K 403B's, mutual funds, IRA's ... money making fortune seeking investment opportunities.

I am not knocking investing, planning for the future is essential, but if this is what your dreams are tied up in ... your dreams have been recently been shattered.

Jehoida invested, surrounded, provided a covering for Joash, all of his life, yet it wasn't enough.

Joash *did* not continue with the good example that God extended to him through the priest, his choices and company were a disaster not only personally but also for the people of the nation.

Joash brings the nation of Judah to the brink of ruin, and is assassinated by his own officials in his own bed. Few if any mourn his death. Not the way I want to be remembered.

Good leadership is essential but there is still that moment of truth when each person must decide for themselves which road they are going to travel.

God does not have grandchildren, **only children.**

Knowing about God, seeing Him at work through the life of another is one thing, having our own relationship with Him is another entirely.

We must seek the Lord and have made our own commitment to obey and follow Him.

Selection from Stories For The Heart page 60,61 "Just a Kid With Cerebral Palsy"

**Closing: Read 1 Chronicles 4: 9,10**

Why was this man more honorable than his so many others mentioned in this genealogy? Not because he asked to be a better farmer!

He asked for God to Bless Him, He was asking for more of God's blessing, for more of God.

This is a prayer that God wants to answer, a prayer that God will answer.

Do you want more of God? Do you sense something is missing in your life? God wants to answer that cry from your heart because His Spirit has put that desire there.