

Everyday Heroes

Ethan John Franco ... a strong sounding name isn't it? How the years fly by ...

He who has ears let him hear [Mark 4:23](#)

Opening: Humor

Kid runs down the stairs to get her mother (dust under her bed)

Boy draws picture of his Sunday school lesson (three people in a jet going to Jerusalem)

Who are these two people? Mary and Joseph heading to Bethlehem ... With a puzzled look on his face the father looks again at the drawing and asks ... and who is the guy steering the plane? Wait for it ... oh that's Pontius Pilate.

Read intro from *Don't Know Much about History* page xvi History is about consequences – a connection that too many groups have worked hard to remove from our system of justice and way of life.

Consequences are what I want you to be thinking about ... As a believer what does God hold you responsible for?

Bible References: [2 Chronicles 24:1, 2](#) [Proverbs 13:24](#)

We will be looking back into the personal history of two lives that were intertwined ... a priest Jehoiada and the boy king Joash with **two main points or lessons to learn**

- I. The amazing influence one life can have over others
- II. Each of us will be held responsible for the decisions we make and the outcomes they lead to.

Newsday offered before and after pictures this week of NY Knickerbockers center Eddy Curry Curry had been a player with star type potential in the NBA but his life had become a train wreck, he became grossly overweight, continually injured and in the news for the wrong not right reasons. The before and after pics were the kind people love to see.

Unwritten rule ... If the after picture is better than the before people love and admire the person but if the after picture is worse than the before the person is considered a pathetic loser.

Curry's after picture was the good kind ... he had lost 44 lbs from off season regimen of diet, exercise and counseling.

Curry is the kind of success story you root for

Americans love the underdog ... we are drawn to the lives of people who are attempting to beat the odds, attempting the impossible

The person who has shed enormous weight

The athlete who won't give up even though facing impending defeat

The small time congressperson who stands up to fight corruption and special interests

Why are we prone to throw our lot in with the people whose chance to win is slim to none?

Because **we identify with them**, down deep inside of us ... we want to believe in them, perhaps even hope that some small part already is

Dedication of Ethan John Franco; what a great sounding name ... especially the middle part.

His young life is dripping with as yet unrealized potential, the stuff that dreams are made of
His life is a book of pages yet to be written.

The question that begs to be answered ... Who will impact this young life and in what way?

Ethan's dedication was a beautiful ceremony but not for show
His parents commitment must be real a day by day marathon

If Krystn and Rob's walk with God is real – transparent - the impact on Ethan's life will be significant!

The parent's role of mentor can not be overstated ... as a teacher of teens meeting a class on the first day of school, I could tell in the first 10 minutes who had come from a structured home with involved parents and who hadn't. It is that obvious and important.

When I hear a parent make the statement ... *"I don't want to influence my child, I want them to make their own choices."* It makes me angry ... That's also called indifference ... if you do not influence your child some else surely will!

Proverbs 13:24 "If you refuse to discipline your children it proves you don't love them. If you love them you will be prompt to discipline them." NLT

The word **discipline** is a broader term than just correction it also refers to instruction.

A Tale of Two Lives

The Priest and Boy King *2Chronicles 24:1-2*

Joash 7 years old when coronated

The kid has a family history that reads a lot like Moses – he was rescued by the wife of Jehoiada just before all of his siblings are murdered by grandmother.

National Turmoil ... Judah is political and spiritual ruin and in desperate need of leadership.

Jehoiada is the man the mentor who will orchestrate the 7 year old day of coronation set up military protection from those who still wanted to kill him ... even though Joash is the rightful heir to the throne, Jehoiada's actions are equivalent of a **coup**.

The formative years , Jehoiada is advisor, mentor counselor,

Joash learned and not only emulated Jehoiada but reached beyond his tutor to rebuild the nation

Joash Surprised even Jehoiada with aggressive reform and zeal for the temple and worship of God.

→ **Your children, others... will see you through the eyes of others ... their reaction, respect or lack of it. They will weigh your actions against your words.**

Jennifer's evidence of her character is evident in the people she helps through her place of work.

Result: The nation was blessed by Joash and Jehoiada – the Temple restored – people were given the opportunity to contribute and did so gladly and God’s blessing fell on the nation

Jehoiada was not only a mentor he was a hero to young Joash

What kind of a difference does a mentor make?

I think we would all agree ... huge ... sometimes life changing

II. Second Main Point

The other side of the story

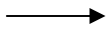
Individual responsibility ...

Our mentors, role models or heroes ... may be great or may fail us but we ultimately will be held responsible for our decisions and the outcomes they bring

Read **Proverbs 24: 2** *Joash did what was pleasing in the sight of the LORD throughout the lifetime of Jehoiada the priest.* Red Flashing signs !!!!! (130 years old)

Read the tragic finish: **2 Chron 24: 17 – 22** Joash would finally be assassinated by his own officials

What happened?! Out with old in with the New? Bad company corrupts good morals? Who can say just what happened to a guy who started out so well but went so bad.



Meet Edwin Thomas ... *Cast of Characters* pages 105 - 107

Mark records the words of Jesus: *He who has ears let him hear ...*

Jesus is not only saying anyone who is willing to understand may ... He is emphasizing that this is what He wants for you ... to understand to let **truth** penetrate down deep inside

“...You shall know the truth and the truth will set you free (liberate you).” John 8:32

But what precedes that verse of hope? How do we learn the truth? The first part of that verse is this *“ You are truly my disciples if you continue to obey my teachings, then ... ” John 8:32*

You can gain strength from the books that you read, the music you listen to from the friends you have here or the pastors but that is not enough it will never be enough!

Pastor Chuck Smith *“God has no grandchildren, only children”* you cannot live someone else experience God wants you to know Him ... up close and personal.

2 Chronicles 24:2 Joash did what was pleasing in God’s sight throughout the life of Jehoiada
2 Chronicles 26:5 King Uzziah “as long as he sought the LORD, God made him to prosper”
2 Chronicles 27:6 King Jotham - “Jotham became powerful because he was careful to live in obedience to the LORD his God.”

Do you see a pattern here?

Some of have sat in these benches year after year and fail to get it ... some are hearing this for the first time today and are not sure what to think of it.

But some are feeling a pull – a tug inside - something is happening that you don't quite understand but you know you have to do something about it