

Stop Hitting The Snooze Button!

Romans 13:11 - The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.

There are two problems with snooze alarms...

The first is that if you keep on hitting the snooze alarm, you may be late or miss out on something completely!

The second problem is that if you keep hitting the snooze alarm...

You may get so used to the sound of the alarm that you don't even hear it at all...

And you will sleep right through the alarm!

2 Kings 12:1-18

1 In the seventh year of Jehu, Joash became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem forty years. His mother's name was Zibiah; she was from Beersheba.

2 Joash did what was right in the eyes of the LORD all the years Jehoiada the priest instructed him.

3 The high places, however, were not removed; the people continued to offer sacrifices and burn incense there.

4 Joash said to the priests, "Collect all the money that is brought as sacred offerings to the temple of the LORD -the money collected in the census, the money received from personal vows and the money brought voluntarily to the temple.

5 Let every priest receive the money from one of the treasurers, and let it be used to repair whatever damage is found in the temple."

6 But by the twenty-third year of King Joash the priests still had not repaired the temple.

7 Therefore King Joash summoned Jehoiada the priest and the other priests and asked them, "Why aren't you repairing the damage done to the temple? Take no more money from your treasurers, but hand it over for repairing the temple."

8 The priests agreed that they would not collect any more money from the people and that they would not repair the temple themselves.

9 Jehoiada the priest took a chest and bored a hole in its lid. He placed it beside the altar, on the right side as one enters the temple of the LORD. The priests who guarded the entrance put into the chest all the money that was brought to the temple of the LORD.

10 Whenever they saw that there was a large amount of money in the chest, the royal secretary and the high priest came, counted the money that had been brought into the temple of the LORD and put it into bags.

11 When the amount had been determined, they gave the money to the men appointed to supervise the work on the temple. With it they paid those who worked on the temple of the LORD -the carpenters and builders,

12 the masons and stonecutters. They purchased timber and dressed stone for the repair of the temple of the LORD, and met all the other expenses of restoring the temple.

13 The money brought into the temple was not spent for making silver basins, wick trimmers, sprinkling bowls, trumpets or any other articles of gold or silver for the temple of the LORD;

14 it was paid to the workmen, who used it to repair the temple.

15 They did not require an accounting from those to whom they gave the money to pay the workers, because they acted with complete honesty.

16 The money from the guilt offerings and sin offerings was not brought into the temple of the LORD; it belonged to the priests.

17 About this time Hazael king of Aram went up and attacked Gath and captured it. Then he turned to attack Jerusalem.

18 But Joash king of Judah took all the sacred objects dedicated by his fathers—Jehoshaphat, Jehoram and Ahaziah, the kings of Judah—and the gifts he himself had dedicated and all the gold found in the treasuries of the temple of the LORD and of the royal palace, and he sent them to Hazael king of Aram, who then withdrew from Jerusalem.

I. Personal Lordship of God never gets established in the heart!

2 Kings 12:2 - Joash did what was right in the eyes of the LORD all the years Jehoiada the priest instructed him.

2 Chron. 23:16 - Jehoiada then made a covenant that he and the people and the king would be the LORD'S people.

2 Chron. 24:17-18

17 After the death of Jehoiada, the officials of Judah came and paid homage to the king, and he listened to them.

18 They abandoned the temple of the LORD, the God of their fathers, and worshiped Asherah poles and idols. Because of their guilt, God's anger came upon Judah and Jerusalem.

I believe a real spiritual awakening has never and will never happen where people seek to ride the convictions of a leader, but have no conviction of their own!

II. High Places never get removed!

2 Kings 12:3 - The high places, however, were not removed; the people continued to offer sacrifices and burn incense there.

Are you ready to surrender every corner of your life to God's charge or are you hanging on to the high places?

III. Dedication to God becomes optional!

2 Kings 12:17-18 - About this time Hazael king of Aram went up and attacked Gath and captured it. Then he turned to attack Jerusalem. But Joash king of Judah took all the sacred objects dedicated by his fathers—Jehoshaphat, Jehoram and Ahaziah, the kings of Judah—and the gifts he himself had dedicated and all the gold found in the treasuries of the temple of the LORD and of the royal palace, and he sent them to Hazael king of Aram, who then withdrew from Jerusalem.

When faced with a crisis, Joash doesn't turn to the Lord...

He doesn't call upon the nation to fast and pray...

Instead, he gives up the things dedicated to the Lord!

You will NEVER get victory in your life by backing up on your dedication to God to try to appease the enemy!

Never negotiate with a terrorist!

If we give up what was dedicated to the Lord out of convenience...

We shouldn't expect any kind of spiritual awakening!

IV. Calls to repentance are ignored!

2 Chron 24:19-22 - Although the LORD sent prophets to the people to bring them back to him, and though they testified against them, THEY WOULD NOT LISTEN. Then the Spirit of God came upon Zechariah son of Jehoiada the priest. He stood before the people and said, "This is what God says: 'Why do you disobey the LORD'S commands? You will not prosper. BECAUSE YOU HAVE FORSAKEN THE LORD, HE HAS FORSAKEN YOU.'" But they plotted against him, and by order of the king they stoned him to death in the courtyard of the LORD'S temple. King Joash did not remember the kindness Zechariah's father Jehoiada had shown him but killed his son, who said as he lay dying, "May the LORD see this and call you to account."

Joash didn't want to hear that what he was doing was wrong...

So, he killed the messenger!

If you are blaming anyone other than yourself for your sinful condition...

Repentance is impossible for you!

God is trying to awaken His people!

We've gotta stop hitting the snooze button!