Isaiah 3-4 - Don’t be a good person who leaves a weak legacy

**Experience an awakening of inner strength**

**Monday**

Read Luke 11:21-22, Joshua 6

Today, wage war against your spiritual enemies (anxiety, anger, laziness, etc.). **Ask** God to show you how to do this.

**Tuesday**

Read 2 Chronicles 27:1-9, 2 Timothy 1:7, Ephesians 1:19

You will have inner strength if you consistently live with God. **Journalize** how you think you can live with God.

**Wednesday**

Read Isaiah 3

Don’t be a good person who leaves a weak legacy. **Study** the weak legacy King Jotham left his nation.

**Thursday**

Read Joshua 24, 2 Timothy 3:16-17

If you are going to have a strong, godly influence, you have to be intentional. **Meditate** on what God wants you to do and say.

**Friday**

Read Isaiah 3:10, Isaiah 4, Psalm 37:19

Good things will happen to you, even when bad things are happening around you. **Praise** God for His goodness to you!

Isaiah 3-4 - Don’t be a good person who leaves a weak legacy

Isaiah 3-4 was written during King Jotham’s reign in Judah.

2 Chronicles 26

His (King Uzziah) fame spread far and wide, for he was greatly helped until he became powerful.

**16**But after Uzziah became powerful, his pride led to his downfall. He was unfaithful to the Lord his God, and entered the temple of the Lord to burn incense on the altar of incense. **17**Azariah the priest with eighty other courageous priests of the Lord followed him in. **18**They confronted King Uzziah and said, “It is not right for you, Uzziah, to burn incense to the Lord. That is for the priests, the descendants of Aaron, who have been consecrated to burn incense. Leave the sanctuary, for you have been unfaithful; and you will not be honored by the Lord God.”

**19**Uzziah, who had a censer in his hand ready to burn incense, became angry. While he was raging at the priests in their presence before the incense altar in the Lord’s temple, leprosy broke out on his forehead. **20**When Azariah the chief priest and all the other priests looked at him, they saw that he had leprosy on his forehead, so they hurried him out. Indeed, he himself was eager to leave, because the Lord had afflicted him.

**21**King Uzziah had leprosy until the day he died. He lived in a separate house—leprous, and banned from the temple of the Lord. Jotham his son had charge of the palace and governed the people of the land.

**22**The other events of Uzziah’s reign, from beginning to end, are recorded by the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz. **23**Uzziah rested with his ancestors and was buried near them in a cemetery that belonged to the kings, for people said, “He had leprosy.” And Jotham his son succeeded him as king.

2 Chronicles 27

**27**Jotham was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem sixteen years. His mother’s name was Jerusha daughter of Zadok. **2**He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, just as his father Uzziah had done, but unlike him he did not enter the temple of the Lord. The people, however, continued their **corrupt** **practices**.

Kings in those days had many wives and usually didn’t have a lot of time for all the children they had. The mother of the prince had the most influence over his life. If the mother was godly, most often the successor King would be godly; if ungodly, so would be the King.

The name of the mother is found here in the Bible as a legacy.

**3**Jotham rebuilt the Upper Gate of the temple of the Lord and did extensive work on the wall at the hill of Ophel. **4**He built towns in the hill country of Judah and forts and towers in the wooded areas.

**5**Jotham waged war against the king of the Ammonites and conquered them. That year the Ammonites paid him a hundred talents of silver, ten thousand cors of wheat and ten thousand cors of barley. The Ammonites brought him the same amount also in the second and third years.

**6**Jotham grew powerful because he walked steadfastly before the Lord his God.

**7**The other events in Jotham’s reign, including all his wars and the other things he did, are written in the book of the kings of Israel and Judah. **8**He was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem sixteen years. **9**Jotham rested with his ancestors and was buried in the City of David. And Ahaz his son succeeded him as king.

*The people, however, continued their corrupt practices.*

2 Kings 15

**34**He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, just as his father Uzziah had done. **35**The high places, however, were not removed; the people continued to offer sacrifices and burn incense there.

Isaiah 3

**8**

Jerusalem staggers,

    Judah is falling;

their words and deeds are against the Lord,

    defying his glorious presence.

**9**

The look on their faces testifies against them;

    they parade their sin like Sodom;

    they do not hide it.

Woe to them!

    They have brought disaster upon themselves.

**15**

What do you mean by crushing my people

    and grinding the faces of the poor?”

declares the Lord, the Lord Almighty.

**16**

The Lord says,

    “The women of Zion are haughty,

walking along with outstretched necks,

    flirting with their eyes,

strutting along with swaying hips,

    with ornaments jingling on their ankles.

*Jotham waged war against the king of the Ammonites and conquered them.*

What is your enemy? Fear/worry? Busy-ness? Addiction? Lust? Anger/resentment? Vanity/self-ambition? Greed/materialism? Laziness/spiritual apathy? Not letting go of what God is telling you let go of?

Wage war against your enemy. Stop being a victim of your thoughts and take the battle against the enemy of your soul.

Luke 11:21-22

**21**“When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are safe. **22**But when someone stronger **attacks** and **overpowers** him, he **takes away the armor** in which the man trusted and divides up his plunder.

1 Samuel 17

**45**David said to the Philistine, “You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.

**48**As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him. **49**Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck (**attacked**) the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell facedown on the ground. (**overpowered**)

**51**David ran and stood over him. He took hold of the Philistine’s sword and drew it from the sheath. (**Takes away the armor/weapon**) After he killed him, he cut off his head with the sword.

James 4:7

**7**Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, (don’t try to resist the temptation or the thought…resist the source of the temptation/thought, in the name of Jesus Almighty!) and he will flee from you.

*Jotham grew powerful because he walked steadfastly before the Lord his God.*

2 Chronicles 26

His (King Uzziah, Jotham’s father) fame spread far and wide, for he was greatly helped until he became powerful.

**16**But after Uzziah became powerful, his pride led to his downfall. He was unfaithful to the Lord his God,

Learn from others’ mistakes.

Just because someone else failed doesn’t mean that you have to. Just because a parent was an alcoholic, doesn’t mean that you are destined to be. Just because someone else’s marriage failed, doesn’t mean that yours have to.

2 Timothy 1:7

**7**For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.

Ephesians 1:19

**19**and his incomparably great power for us who believe.

*Do you want spiritual power and continuous inner strength? Walk with God steadfastly.*

What kind of legacy did King Jotham leave?

A good life but with little godly influence.

If you want to leave a godly legacy to those around you, your physical children and your spiritual children, you have *got to be intentional*. Living a godly example is not enough.

Example: At work I can talk a good talk and walk a good walk, but if I don’t mentor people and hold them accountable, they are never going to develop and excel.

Jesus provided an example of perfection to His disciples, but He also got into their personal business, correcting them, encouraging them and pushing them.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

**16**All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, **17**so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

*Our influence has got to be intentional or we are going to be godly people who leave a weak legacy.*

What was Jotham’s legacy?

1. Ahaz, his son who succeeded him, was completely out of control and completely ruined the nation of Judah.
2. While Jotham was a godly guy, the people of Judah continued in idolatry and were headed for destruction.

Isaiah 3:5

People will oppress each other—

    man against man, neighbor against neighbor.

The young will rise up against the old,

    the nobody against the honored.

**11**

Woe to the wicked!

    Disaster is upon them!

They will be paid back

    for what their hands have done.

**12**

Youths oppress my people,

    women rule over them.

My people, your guides lead you astray; (bad leaders were allowed to lead)

    they turn you from the path.

**13**

The Lord takes his place in court;

    he rises to judge the people.

**14**

The Lord enters into judgment

    against the elders and leaders of his people:

“It is you who have ruined my vineyard;

    the plunder from the poor is in your houses.

**24**

Instead of fragrance there will be a stench;

    instead of a sash, a rope;

instead of well-dressed hair, baldness;

    instead of fine clothing, sackcloth;

    instead of beauty, branding.

**25**

Your men will fall by the sword,

    your warriors in battle.

**26**

The gates of Zion will lament and mourn;

    destitute, she will sit on the ground.

Joshua 24:15

**15**…But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

What is going on in your household under your watch? What are you allowing that you shouldn’t be?

I take pastoring very seriously. Some things we don’t allow here:

1. Divisiveness and drama
2. Watering down God’s message to us
3. Flaunting sin
4. Subsidizing laziness (love doesn’t enable)

What do we passionately promote?

1. Faithfulness
2. Availability
3. Teachability

“As for me and Jesus’ church, we are going to serve the Lord.”

*To leave a strong legacy you have to be intentional.*

Are you a victim to the poor legacy someone has left you?

Isaiah 3:8

Jerusalem staggers,

    Judah is falling;

their words and deeds are against the Lord,

    defying his glorious presence.

**9**

The look on their faces testifies against them;

    they parade their sin like Sodom;

    they do not hide it.

Woe to them!

    They have brought disaster upon themselves.

**10**

**Tell the righteous it will be well with them,**

**for they will enjoy the fruit of their deeds.**

**11**

Woe to the wicked!

    Disaster is upon them!

They will be paid back

    for what their hands have done.

Isaiah 4

**2**In that day (at the time when all these bad things are happening) the Branch of the Lord will be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the land will be the pride and glory of the survivors in Israel. **3**Those who are left in Zion, who remain in Jerusalem, will be called holy, all who are recorded among the living in Jerusalem. **4**The Lord will wash away the filth of the women of Zion; he will cleanse the bloodstains from Jerusalem by a spirit of judgment and a spirit of fire. **5**Then the Lord will create over all of Mount Zion and over those who assemble there a cloud of smoke by day and a glow of flaming fire by night; over everything the glory will be a canopy. **6**It will be a shelter and shade from the heat of the day, and a refuge and hiding place from the storm and rain.

Psalm 37:19

In times of disaster they will not wither;

    in days of famine they will enjoy plenty.