

August 1, 2023

“And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD. . .except. . .”

2 Kings, 2 Chronicles

As you read the two books of the Bible referenced above, you will find the words above, or something similar, written in the introduction of many of the kings of Judah. There are a number of things present in these textual introductions of the Kings of Judah we should notice. And, as with all of God's word, we ought to consider how they apply to us. Today, I want to draw your attention to one of the “exceptions” that is recorded. *“And he did what was right in the sight of the Lord. . .except that the high places were not removed; the people still sacrificed and burned incense on the high places.”* (2 Kings 15:3-4).

Azariah (also referred to as Uzziah) is the king of which this particular passage is speaking. As king, his attention to his duties and responsibilities to promote peace, safety, and prosperity for the people of Judah are found in 2 Chronicles. Uzziah's personal sacrifices/devotions were acceptable during this time, for Scripture tells us he prospered as king for as long as he sought the Lord (2 Chron. 26:5). Yet, referring to this time, the charge above is levied against him. Although his sphere of influence encompassed the nation, Uzziah did not use his position of leadership to impact his kingdom in a way that encouraged them in the proper reverence and worship of God. Even as he promoted the nation of Judah physically, Uzziah neglected the people's greatest need, that of worshipping God alone and doing so as He proscribes!

“How does this apply to me? I'm not a king.”, you say. That's true. However, if you know Christ, you are a child of the King (John 1:12). As such, you are an ambassador for Him in this world. And you have been given the great task of reconciling others to Christ (2 Cor 5:18, 20). Like Uzziah, you too have a “sphere of influence” which you impact. It includes your family and friends, as well as everyone with whom you interact and those who observe your interaction(s) with others. Your ability to lead within it and influence others for the kingdom of God is directly related to your walk with the Lord and will prosper as you seek and surrender to Him. Will you seek Him? Will you surrender to Him and serve Him in the great cause for which Jesus came and for which He died: reconciling the lost to God that they might worship the Lord in spirit and in truth as He has proscribed?

It is our prayer for you, and for ourselves, that we would do what is right in the eyes of the LORD. . .without exception.

The Lord has kept us busy even though we have stayed in Southern Illinois this month. There were a number of Sundays the Lord had Cindy and I ministering outside our home church as I preached in various churches. As well, we have been sharing the Gospel and praying for the needs of others at the local foodbanks and diving into God's word at the Lighthouse Shelter. In addition to this, Cindy leads a women's Bible study. In these things, we are blessed to serve our Lord by encouraging others and expositing His truth when we are home.

Clothing continues to come in for the ministry of Vieux Carre Baptist Church in New Orleans. Thank you for your continued commitment to this facet of our ministry to the Lord. Another trip to deliver items to Vieux Carre will likely occur before the end of September. In addition to clothing, we will also be purchasing the following items in bulk for use in their ministry to the homeless.

- Soap
- Shampoo
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Blankets
- Backpacks
- Specific cold-weather clothing

If the Lord leads you to help us purchase these items, please send a donation designated for "Vieux Carre".

We also request your prayers for the following:

- Please stand in the gap for your Brothers and Sisters that we, as His people, would act with faith on the promise in 2 Chron 7:14.
- Pray for our nation's leaders at every level.
- The John 3:16 Horseshoe Ministry (Sept. 8th-17th) – Kansas State Fair
- We ask that you pray for the ongoing ministry of Call of Grace

Is there something we can pray for you? If so please let us know.

Thank you for your prayers and support. Everything the Lord calls us to do is done with your help and we are thankful to the Lord for your service to Him with us. If He calls you to go on mission with us, wherever we go, or to help support a mission or any part of our ministry, please let us know. Likewise, if you or your church believe we could be of service to you as regards your evangelistic efforts, please contact us.

Until Jesus comes,

Dennis & Cindy

~Cindy's Bottom Line~

YOUR INFLUENCE MATTERS!

God has placed you in the center of your sphere of influence so that you may help others understand who Jesus is and how to live for Him.

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds."

Hebrews 10:24 (NIV)

Call of Grace Ministries is a 501(c)3 ministry and your contributions are tax deductible. All donations to Call of Grace are used for ministry expenses. We go as God provides and your support of this ministry is a blessing to us as we move forward in the Lord's call.