

Biblical Stories of Faith - Week 2

King Rehoboam: The Sin of Failed Faith

2 Chron 12:1 After Rehoboam's position as king was established and he had become strong, he and all Israel with him abandoned the law of the LORD. 2 Because they had been unfaithful to the LORD, Shishak king of Egypt attacked Jerusalem in the fifth year of King Rehoboam. 3 With twelve hundred chariots and sixty thousand horsemen and the innumerable troops of Libyans, Sukkites and Cushites that came with him from Egypt, 4 he captured the fortified cities of Judah and came as far as Jerusalem. 5 Then the prophet Shemaiah came to Rehoboam and to the leaders of Judah who had assembled in Jerusalem for fear of Shishak, and he said to them, "This is what the LORD says, 'You have abandoned me; therefore, I now abandon you to Shishak.'" 6 The leaders of Israel and the king humbled themselves and said, "The LORD is just." 7 When the LORD saw that they humbled themselves, this word of the LORD came to Shemaiah: "Since they have humbled themselves, I will not destroy them but will soon give them deliverance. My wrath will not be poured out on Jerusalem through Shishak. 8 They will, however, become subject to him, so that they may learn the difference between serving me and serving the kings of other lands." 9 When Shishak king of Egypt attacked Jerusalem, he carried off the treasures of the temple of the LORD and the treasures of the royal palace. He took everything, including the gold shields Solomon had made. 10 So King Rehoboam made bronze shields to replace them and assigned these to the commanders of the guard on duty at the entrance to the royal palace. 11 Whenever the king went to the LORD's temple, the guards went with him, bearing the shields, and afterward they returned them to the guardroom. 12 Because Rehoboam humbled himself, the LORD's anger turned from him, and he was not totally destroyed. Indeed, there was some good in Judah. 13 King Rehoboam established himself firmly in Jerusalem and continued as king. He was forty-one years old when he became king, and he reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city the LORD had chosen out of all the tribes of Israel in which to put his Name. His mother's name was Naamah; she was an Ammonite. 14 He did evil because he had not set his heart on seeking the LORD. NIV

- Unless we set our hearts to seek the Lord, we will do evil.
 - Rehoboam did evil in various ways -- not by design and by planning to do evil. His evil was simply neglect.
 - Rehoboam teaches us what will happen to us if our faith is not focused on God.
1. Rehoboam had stubborn beginnings.
 - In seeking approval or allowing pride to lead him instead of wisdom, he missed the walk of faith God intended.
 - The high office of being a Christian carries with it a high responsibility.
 - Instead of setting our hearts to seek God, we seek our own agenda instead of God's agenda. We, like Rehoboam, are not wicked or evil-- just independent.

- Solomon's neglect of his son influenced Rehoboam more than his **wisdom** did.
- He had self-righteousness and self-confidence instead of self-**examination**. Rehoboam lacked **discernment**, discretion and delight in the Lord.

2. Rehoboam was lacking in **steadfastness**.

- We do the same thing at times. Don't we sometimes want to fling away our **spiritual** support and think we can rely on ourselves? I believe we do this 4 ways:
 - We relax our hold on our early **convictions** as a believer and quit seeking, or we become content.
 - We quit **trusting** God alone for our daily needs.
 - We **abandon** our faith and our Godly wisdom we have learned.
 - We **forget** God is needed not just in times of trouble but today and tomorrow.
- How do we stay steadfast?
 - We need a new sense of **urgency**.
 - The **soundness** of our faith might need some tuning up.
 - Secret sins must be **confessed** and forsaken.
 - We must set our hearts to seek the Lord.

3. Rehoboam had a spirit of **unfaithfulness**.

Whatever happened we know they lost their **convictions** about what God says. Selfish desires must be turned to a **servant's** heart.

Three truths we need to learn today:

1. The instability in **earthly** things
2. The **ineptness** of those who would be king
3. Rehoboam's **hypocrisy** was evident to God

Final Thoughts

- If you want a ministry of gold, you have to experience the **refiner's** fire.
- Don't flash gold **outwardly** when the reality is you're brass inside.
- Don't keep up outward appearances just to gratify your own **vanity**.
- If all you have is **brass**, give it to God.