

## 2 Chronicles 22, 24 NIV

### **Ahaziah King of Judah**

**22** The people of Jerusalem made Ahaziah, Jehoram's youngest son, king in his place, since the raiders, who came with the Arabs into the camp, had killed all the older sons. So Ahaziah son of Jehoram king of Judah began to reign.

<sup>2</sup> Ahaziah was twenty-two<sup>[a]</sup> years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem one year. His mother's name was Athaliah, a granddaughter of Omri.

<sup>3</sup> He too followed the ways of the house of Ahab, for his mother encouraged him to act wickedly. <sup>4</sup> He did evil in the eyes of the LORD, as the house of Ahab had done, for after his father's death they became his advisers, to his undoing. <sup>5</sup> He also followed their counsel when he went with Joram<sup>[b]</sup> son of Ahab king of Israel to wage war against Hazael king of Aram at Ramoth Gilead. The Arameans wounded Joram; <sup>6</sup> so he returned to Jezreel to recover from the wounds they had inflicted on him at Ramoth<sup>[c]</sup> in his battle with Hazael king of Aram.

Then Ahaziah<sup>[d]</sup> son of Jehoram king of Judah went down to Jezreel to see Joram son of Ahab because he had been wounded.

<sup>7</sup> Through Ahaziah's visit to Joram, God brought about Ahaziah's downfall. When Ahaziah arrived, he went out with Joram to meet Jehu son of Nimshi, whom the LORD had anointed to destroy the house of Ahab. <sup>8</sup> While Jehu was executing judgment on the house of Ahab, he found the officials of Judah and the sons of Ahaziah's relatives, who had been attending Ahaziah, and he killed them. <sup>9</sup> He then went in search of Ahaziah, and his men captured him while he was hiding in Samaria. He was brought to Jehu and put to death. They buried him, for they said, "He was a son of Jehoshaphat, who sought the LORD with all his heart." So there was no one in the house of Ahaziah powerful enough to retain the kingdom.

### **Athaliah and Joash**

<sup>10</sup> When Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she proceeded to destroy the whole royal family of the house of Judah. <sup>11</sup> But Jehosheba,<sup>[e]</sup> the daughter of King Jehoram, took Joash son of Ahaziah and stole him away from among the royal princes who were about to be murdered and put him and his nurse in a bedroom. Because Jehosheba,<sup>[f]</sup> the daughter of King Jehoram and wife of the priest Jehoiada, was Ahaziah's sister, she hid the child from Athaliah so she could not kill him. <sup>12</sup> He remained hidden with them at the temple of God for six years while Athaliah ruled the land.

### **Joash Repairs the Temple**

**24** Joash was seven years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem forty years. His mother's name was Zibiah; she was from Beersheba. <sup>2</sup> Joash did what was right in the eyes of

the LORD all the years of Jehoiada the priest. <sup>3</sup> Jehoiada chose two wives for him, and he had sons and daughters.

<sup>4</sup> Sometime later Joash decided to restore the temple of the LORD. <sup>5</sup> He called together the priests and Levites and said to them, "Go to the towns of Judah and collect the money due annually from all Israel, to repair the temple of your God. Do it now." But the Levites did not act at once.

<sup>6</sup> Therefore the king summoned Jehoiada the chief priest and said to him, "Why haven't you required the Levites to bring in from Judah and Jerusalem the tax imposed by Moses the servant of the LORD and by the assembly of Israel for the tent of the covenant law?"

<sup>7</sup> Now the sons of that wicked woman Athaliah had broken into the temple of God and had used even its sacred objects for the Baals.

<sup>8</sup> At the king's command, a chest was made and placed outside, at the gate of the temple of the LORD. <sup>9</sup> A proclamation was then issued in Judah and Jerusalem that they should bring to the LORD the tax that Moses the servant of God had required of Israel in the wilderness. <sup>10</sup> All the officials and all the people brought their contributions gladly, dropping them into the chest until it was full. <sup>11</sup> Whenever the chest was brought in by the Levites to the king's officials and they saw that there was a large amount of money, the royal secretary and the officer of the chief priest would come and empty the chest and carry it back to its place. They did this regularly and collected a great amount of money. <sup>12</sup> The king and Jehoiada gave it to those who carried out the work required for the temple of the LORD. They hired masons and carpenters to restore the LORD's temple, and also workers in iron and bronze to repair the temple.

<sup>13</sup> The men in charge of the work were diligent, and the repairs progressed under them. They rebuilt the temple of God according to its original design and reinforced it. <sup>14</sup> When they had finished, they brought the rest of the money to the king and Jehoiada, and with it were made articles for the LORD's temple: articles for the service and for the burnt offerings, and also dishes and other objects of gold and silver. As long as Jehoiada lived, burnt offerings were presented continually in the temple of the LORD.

<sup>15</sup> Now Jehoiada was old and full of years, and he died at the age of a hundred and thirty. <sup>16</sup> He was buried with the kings in the City of David, because of the good he had done in Israel for God and his temple.

## **The Wickedness of Joash**

<sup>17</sup> After the death of Jehoiada, the officials of Judah came and paid homage to the king, and he listened to them. <sup>18</sup> They abandoned the temple of the LORD, the God of their ancestors, and worshiped Asherah poles and idols. Because of their guilt, God's anger came on Judah and Jerusalem. <sup>19</sup> Although the LORD sent prophets to the people to bring them back to him, and though they testified against them, they would not listen.

<sup>20</sup> Then the Spirit of God came on 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.'"

<sup>21</sup> But they plotted against him, and by order of the king they stoned him to death in the courtyard of the LORD's temple. <sup>22</sup> 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."

<sup>23</sup> At the turn of the year, the army of Aram marched against Joash; it invaded Judah and Jerusalem and killed all the leaders of the people. They sent all the plunder to their king in Damascus. <sup>24</sup> Although the Aramean army had come with only a few men, the LORD delivered into their hands a much larger army. Because Judah had forsaken the LORD, the God of their ancestors, judgment was executed on Joash. <sup>25</sup> When the Arameans withdrew, they left Joash severely wounded. His officials conspired against him for murdering the son of Jehoiada the priest, and they killed him in his bed. So he died and was buried in the City of David, but not in the tombs of the kings.

<sup>26</sup> Those who conspired against him were Zabad, son of Shimeath an Ammonite woman, and Jehozabad, son of Shimrith a Moabite woman. <sup>27</sup> The account of his sons, the many prophecies about him, and the record of the restoration of the temple of God are written in the annotations on the book of the kings. And Amaziah his son succeeded him as king.

## **Luke 1:26-38 NIV      The Birth of Jesus Foretold**

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

<sup>29</sup> Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

<sup>34</sup> "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

<sup>35</sup> The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. <sup>36</sup> Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. <sup>37</sup> For no word from God will ever fail."

<sup>38</sup> "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

## **Luke 2: 41-52 NIV The Boy Jesus at the Temple**

<sup>41</sup> Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover. <sup>42</sup> When he was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom. <sup>43</sup> After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. <sup>44</sup> Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. <sup>45</sup> When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. <sup>46</sup> After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup> Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup> When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you."

<sup>49</sup> "Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" <sup>50</sup> But they did not understand what he was saying to them.

<sup>51</sup> Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. <sup>52</sup> And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

### **Sermon Manuscript for Kailua Christian Church for May 8, 2022**

#### **Title: "Generational Faithfulness"**

Good morning and Happy Mother's Day! (brief introduction) This morning's sermon will examine a grandmother, an aunty, and a mother from the Bible to determine how we can raise a generation of people who are faithful to God.

The first example we will look at is probably the worst mother in the world. Athaliah was the daughter of King Ahab from Israel. His father was King Omri was an usurper who took the throne away from Zimri. He was the commander of the army at the time and was more evil than the kings before him (1 Kings 16:25). While Ahab's son Ahaziah ruled in Israel, Athaliah married the king of Judah, Jehoshapat's son Jehoram. She corrupted him thoroughly. Elijah confronted Jehoram of his sins, and he eventually died after a two year stomach illness. Jehoram and Athaliah's son Ahaziah took the throne, but he was equally just as evil. 2 Chronicles 22:1 says that Athaliah was his "counselor to do wickedly." He was twenty-two years old when he became the king.

After visiting his cousins in Israel, Ahaziah was killed by Jehu in God's judgment of Israel's evil. When Athaliah heard of her son's death, she rose up and killed the rest of the royal offspring so that she alone could rule Judah. Ahaziah's youngest son Joash was hidden by his aunt Jehoshabeath for six years until he could ascend to the throne. In the meantime, Athaliah continued the country's wayward worship of the Baals. She even defiled the holy utensils from God's temple by taking them for use in the worship of the Baals.

In the end, Jehoshabeath and her husband, Jehoaida, who was the high priest, deposed Athaliah. Athaliah was executed as Joash ascended to the throne at age seven. Whoa! Sounds like a good k-drama, huh?!

Athaliah was responsible for a generation of unfaithfulness. She corrupted her husband and her children. She defiled the temple and the worship of Yahweh God. She chose selfish ambition over the welfare of the country in killing the royal offspring. The opposite of faithfulness...is selfish ambition. Athaliah had plenty of that. She listened to the voices of entitlement and deception. She thought "I deserve to rule. I deserve the honor, the glory, and the riches." It is easy for us to be deceived – we hear voices of entitlement all the time, too. The world owes us for lost time, lost opportunities, or lost comforts. Retirement can often be a time of self-indulgence rather than what can be the most fruitful time of ministry in one's life.

Retirees have a comparative advantage of time and money that children, youth, young adults, or working adults don't have. Youth have time but no money nor experience. Young adults have some time, some money, but still little experience. Working adults have money but no time. There are a lot of things older adults have that no other age group has: time, money, and experience...all three! However, your time, money, and experience belong to God, do they not? Self-indulgence is about taking it easy and enjoying life for yourself. It's a misplacement of worship. Put the attention back on God. Athaliah took the worship utensils from God's temple and worshiped false gods. We need to return what belongs to God (our time, money, and experiences) and find ways to worship God and call others to worship God with us.

We are called to preserve a generation of faithful people through Christ-centered living and worship.

In contrast to Athaliah, Jehoshabeath rescues Joash. She was the daughter of King Jehoram and the (step?) sister of King Ahaziah. She was Joash's aunty. She preserved a generation for faithfulness. Not everyone is a mom, but we celebrate our "aunties" who have pushed us towards Christ and godly living. Turns out, she married the high priest, Jehoida. He was a godly man and was faithful to God. Jehoshabeath chose to associate with a godly man and pursued righteousness.

In 2 Chronicles 22:11-12, we see that she hid Joash in her home for six years. That's a pretty long lockdown! Queen Athaliah had no jurisdiction over the temple. The high priest's home was one of the few places she couldn't touch. When no one else could help, Jehoshabeath stepped in to save one who was defenseless and needed protection. She had her own son Zechariah to take care of but she did not hesitate to take in another. The Bible says that Joash was faithful to God all the days of Jehoida, the high priest. Jehoshabeath instilled in Joash formative values that helped him navigate his way when he got older.

Just like Jehoshabeath, we must be careful to choose our companions carefully. Jehoida was a righteous man. We need to pursue righteousness. Some people give up on trying to live holy lives. They fall into the deception that they are beyond redemption. What that says is that God is not really all-powerful. That limits God and his Spirit. Once people turn to God in faith, He gives them his Holy Spirit which includes the fruit of the Spirit, self-control. With God's power and help, we can be transformed from the inside. God can change every person. It's never too late; as long as we have breath, God can use us. Romans 12:2 declares that we are to be transformed by the renewing of our minds – to prove what the will of God in our lives is, that which is good, acceptable, and perfect. The more God works in our lives, the more we should be thinking godly, acting godly, and helping people around us to do the same. We'll still make mistakes, but with God's help we'll experience forgiveness and his peace along the way.

Just like Jehoshabeath, we need to take action – to care for those around us who are defenseless and need protection. Is there someone you know today who needs an advocate – someone who speaks out for them? Everyone needs an advocate – someone who has your back, in good times and especially in tough times. Ecclesiastes 4:10 says, "woe to the one who falls when there is not another to lift him up." During these tough times, has the church gotten complacent and self-absorbed? Are we blind to the people who desperately need Jesus' love?

The Bible mentions on many occasions the need for Israel and the church to look out for the widowed and the orphaned. In the book of Isaiah, whole, entire nations were judged because of their lack of welfare for the poor. We may need to widen our societal circle – to see and discover more people who desperately need our help. During this past spring break, I had a chance to visit with my dad's brothers and sisters in California. My three aunts and one uncle share a house, and my family stayed with them. While my aunts have retired and volunteer here and there, my uncle has chosen to work. I asked him why he chooses to

work. He answered, "So, I can meet more people and share the gospel with them." He has been a groceryman for most of his life. And he has an arrangement to stay extra to finish his work tasks if he needs the time. Sometimes, it takes longer to do things when you're older. But, it gives him time to be with his co-workers and opportunities to share the gospel with them. Otherwise, he'd just be at home all the time. This way, he can be obedient to God's command to share the gospel.

We have to ask ourselves the question, "What can I do today, tomorrow, this week?" to help others. We cannot just say, "That's not my problem." In youth ministry, we talk about an indicator for maturity in a young person is when he/she starts taking the initiative in wanting to grow more in his/her faith. The same is true for the church. How does Kailua Christian Church take initiative in reaching her world? This is the kind of question you need to continue asking in the pastoral selection process.

We are called to preserve a generation of faithfulness through righteous association and advocacy for the oppressed.

In Luke 1:26-38, we see Mary, the mother of Jesus, hearing from the angel Gabriel that she was to have a son, even though she was a virgin. Mary hears this message, believes, and submits to God. Verse 38 uses the word "bondslave" which refers to complete submission to God. Mary submitted to God's work in her life.

Later, in Luke 2:41-52, Jesus is twelve years old, and He stays behind at the temple during his family's annual trip to Jerusalem for the Passover. Mary and Joseph go back for Him and ask Him, "Why have you treated us this way?" Jesus replies, "...Did you not know that I had to be in my Father's house?" While they did not understand what He meant, Mary continued to ponder and meditate on these words.

In both of these cases, Mary didn't exactly understand how God was working, but she trusted and invested time and attention into her Son's future and faith. She trusted God for her future. One of the things I've concluded in life is that we won't always know the answers. In fact, here's a deep concept, people always talk about how when we get to heaven, we can ask God all the questions we have. Well, I hate to break it to you, but even if He gives us the answers, we still might not understand! We're finite creatures with a finite understanding. We may never fully understand the depths of God's grace, love, or the inner workings of the universe. We just have to trust in the God who does understand everything. When God calls us to action, you might not have everything worked out in life. When God calls you to action, He might just expect you to trust Him.

Mary focuses on God's Words and expectantly waits for his timing as the future unfolds. She adopts a spirit of listening to God – in contrast to Athaliah who listened only to the voice of selfish ambition. We must adopt a lifelong commitment to reading and studying God's Word. Listen to Bible studies, take a BIH class, go to a Christian conference, pick up a commentary on your favorite book of the Bible from Logos Christian Bookstore, and get into God's Word. We have to be led by his Spirit and listen to his voice day by day. When you wake up each morning, ask God what He wants you to do for the day. When you drive down the road, ask God what He wants you to do. When you get to the store, ask God what He wants you to do. Expect God to speak – in that still small voice. Let God lead you.

We are called to build a generation of faithfulness through devotion to Scripture and walking by the Spirit.

God wants us to build up the next generation. What will God do through Kailua Christian Church in the next ten years? The next twenty years? How can God use us? We must be transformed, led by his Spirit, and focused on his Word. Then, we will be able to demonstrate compassion, advocate for others, and lead people to worship Him.

Prayer