

“Don’t Miss Out On Your Blessing”

2 Kings 23:31-34

09/20/11

Introduction: At times we may feel like we have missed out on a good thing (blessing) when we arrive at a department store and find out that the last item on sale was just sold out or if we don’t get that promotion we thought we deserved. But, we know that there are far more life-impacting blessings that we don’t want to miss (**Matthew 16:26**). In our lesson tonight, we are going to look at a blessing that was in the Old Testament. Reading this story should cause us to wonder, “Am I missing out on my blessing?”

Verse 31

The Opportunity

This verse shows us the opportunity that lay ahead of Jehoahaz. We read that Jehoahaz was twenty- three years old when he became the king in Jerusalem or King of Judah. He came into **power** after his father, Josiah, died. He was the fourth son of Josiah (**1 Chronicles 3:15**). Usually, it is the eldest son who would become the king (successor), but that was not the case here. The people **bypassed** the other sons to make Jehoahaz the king (**2 Chronicles 36:1**), which was a divine opportunity for him (**James 1:17**). We must realize that sometimes (Godly) favor may appear unfair to other people. Likewise, we may also experience favor from others, which may bring jealousy and **negative** attitudes towards us but we can’t let that bother us. However, we must be sure to thank God for our blessings. Like Jehoahaz, we have experienced Godly favor that we did not deserve (**Ephesians 1:3**) (**1 Peter 2:9**). We need to understand these opportunities come to us for several reasons. What are they? It is to glorify God, for us to enjoy our life on earth, to bless others, and to build His Kingdom. As Christians, we need to have prosperity with a purpose. In other words, everything that God does for us He **expects** it to flow through us. Does it?

Verse 32

The Offense

Here we see the offense of Jehoahaz. The text tells us that this **evil** was done “in the sight of the Lord.” In other words, God was aware of it. What offense did Jehoahaz commit? It was **idolatry**. Idolatry is defined as excessive or blind adoration (love) for something or someone that we put before the Lord. Before we condemn Jehoahaz in our hearts, let’s ask ourselves whether we are guilty of excessive adoration towards any person or thing in our lives (**1 Timothy 6:9-10**) (**Mark 12:29-30**). This verse tells us that he did “according to all that his fathers

had done.” This means that Jehoahaz did what the wicked kings (“fathers”) before him had done. Likewise, we need to be careful in regards to whose **patterns** we choose to follow. We need to remind ourselves of Moses’ advice to the children of Israel. He said that God had set before them (and us) life and death **principles** (**Deuteronomy 30:19**). It is our responsibility to respond to each **situation** in such a way that it will promote life (of God) in us and towards those around us. This was a golden opportunity for Jehoahaz to follow in his father, Josiah’s, footsteps. The previous chapters tell us that Josiah made several Godly reformations in Judah. But, Jehoahaz failed to follow in that path. We need to ask ourselves, “Whose path are we following in our lives?”

Verses 33-34

The Outcome

Here we see the outcome of Jehoahaz’ s life. According to verse 31, Jehoahaz remained as king for only **three** months. Verse 33 tells us that Jehoahaz ended up in prison at Pharaoh Necho II’s military headquarters (“bands at Riblah in the land of Hamath”). In addition, he was dethroned and replaced by his older brother, Eliakim. This should not surprise us because the Bible clearly states that the ungodly will be punished (**Psalms 1:6**). Necho changed Eliakim’s name from “God has established” to Jehoiakim, “the Lord has established.” In the ancient Near East, the naming of a person was regarded as a sign of **authority**. So, by naming Jehoiakim, Necho demonstrated that he was the lord who controlled Judah. We know that no kings, kingdoms, or nations rise and fall without the knowledge and authorization of our God (**Colossians 1:15-16**) (**Isaiah 6:1**). Likewise, no matter what is happening in our lives, we need to keep in mind that God is aware of it and is still in control (**Luke 12:7**) (**Psalms 139:7-10**). Verse 33 indicates that Pharaoh imposed taxes on the land. The tax imposed on Judah was 750 lbs. of silver and 7.5 lbs of gold, which brought hardship on the people of Judah. Jehoahaz’s ungodly actions caused him to **lose** his position, power, and eventually his life (**Galatians 6:7**). Jehoahaz wasted his life away and missed out on his blessings. Are our actions causing us to miss out on our blessings? But, the good news is if we have messed up, we know that we serve a God who will always forgive us (**1 John 1:9**). **However, we should not take his forgiveness for granted.** His forgiveness is a **blessing** we will never miss out on!

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