

A GOOD MAN WHOSE MISTAKES DESTROYED A NATION

Text: 2 Chronicles 33:13b-16

I will hand them over to trouble, to all the kingdoms of the earth, because of Manasseh the son of Hezekiah, king of Judah, for what he did in Jerusalem. (Jer. 15:4).

INTRO: Our 2 texts would at first seem to contain a contradiction for both speak of the same man, King Manasseh of Judah. To understand this mystery, we need but examine the Divine record.

I. HIS YEARS OF SIN. 2 CHRONICLES 33:1-9.

A. His sin was intensified by the fact that he had a good & godly father. 2 Chron. 32:32-33.

B. His sin was still further compounded because he was repeatedly warned, 33:10, 18.

C. Still further intensified by the fact that he carried a nation with him into abomination, vs. 9.

II. HIS CAPTIVITY, vs. 10-13.

A. His sin brought affliction, vs. 13.

B. He was humbled & repented of his sins, vs. 12-13.

III. FRUITS OF REPENTANCE.

A. He was forgiven & restored to his throne, vs. 13.

B. He made restitution as best he could, vs. 14-16.

C. But there were consequences of his sins that could not be re-called.

1. He helplessly watched his nation continue in rebellion against God's will, vs. 17.

Deut 12:5-14, But you shall seek the place where the LORD your God chooses, out of all your tribes, to put His name for His dwelling place; & there you shall go. There you shall take your burnt offerings, your sacrifices, your tithes, the heave offerings of your hand, your vowed offerings, your freewill offerings & the first-born of your herds & flocks. And there you shall eat before the LORD your God, & you shall rejoice in all to which you have put your hand, you & your households, in which the LORD your God has blessed you. You shall not at all do as we are doing here today--every man doing whatever is right in his own eyes--for as yet you have not come to the rest & the inheritance which the LORD your God is giving you. But when you cross over the Jordan and dwell in the land which the LORD your God is giving you to inherit, & He gives you rest from all your enemies round about, so that you dwell in safety, 11 then there will be the place where the LORD your God chooses to make His name abide. There you shall bring all that I command you: your burnt offerings, your sacrifices, your tithes, the heave offerings of your hand, &

all your choice offerings which you vow to the LORD. And you shall rejoice before the LORD your God, you and your sons and your daughters, your male & female servants, & the Levite who is within your gates, since he has no portion nor inheritance with you. Take heed to yourself that you do not offer your burnt offerings in every place that you see; but in the place which the LORD chooses, in one of your tribes, there you shall offer your burnt offerings, and there you shall do all that I command you.

2. His son, Amon, who succeeded him as king of Judah was a godless idolater, vs. 20-23.

IV. MODERN APPLICATION OF THIS TRUTH.

A. My grandparents.

B. One preacher after whom I've read illustrates this principle by telling of a man who took his little girl to an eye specialist. The baby's eyes were very bad. The Dr. examined her & told her father that her eyes would never get better. "She will be blind before she is grown." The man turned pale & gasped, "Dr., my youth wasn't what it should have been. Can that be the cause?" The Dr. replied, "You needn't have told me. Certainly it is the cause." NOTE: God can forgive that man of the sins of his young manhood, but that forgiveness will not bring sight to his daughter.

- C. Esau, Heb. 12:17. Found no place for repentance.
- D. The prodigal son touched many lives on his way down who probably never learned of his repentance. He most likely influenced others into sin who were not influenced to follow him in repentance.
- E. The story is told of a girl who wanted to obey the gospel during a gospel meeting. Her mother who was not a Christian objected. The preacher met with the mother, prayed with her, plead with her. To no avail. 3 yrs later he was holding a meeting in a neighboring town. He received a call to come conduct the funeral of that same young girl. On the way home from the cemetery, the mother requested the preacher to ride with her. That afternoon she confessed Christ & became a Christian. She turned to her other daughter & said, "Mary, I have found the salvation I rejected 3 yrs ago." "No, Mother, she said. "It's true, you've found salvation, but it's not the salvation that was offered to you 3 yrs ago. Your salvation then would have included Nellie. Now Nellie has gone beyond the realm of salvation."
- F. King Manasseh repented of his sins & found forgiveness & salvation for himself, but it was too late to save his nation from destruction. The words of Jer. 15:4 were written about 40 yrs after the death of King Manasseh.

1. Many a father & mother find salvation after they have wrecked the lives of their children.
2. Many a young man or young lady finds salvation only after they have been instrumental in enticing others into a life of sin from which they will never emerge.
3. You may reject the gospel now--& you might yet live to be saved at some future time. But it will not be the same salvation you could have now. Even if you should be fortunate enough to find Christ later in life, you will go to your grave knowing certain consequences of spurning this opportunity to do the will of God, & you will be completely helpless to undo those consequences.

2 Cor. 6:2, For He says, "In an acceptable time I have heard you & in the day of salvation I have helped you. Behold, now is the accepted time; behold now is the day of salvation.