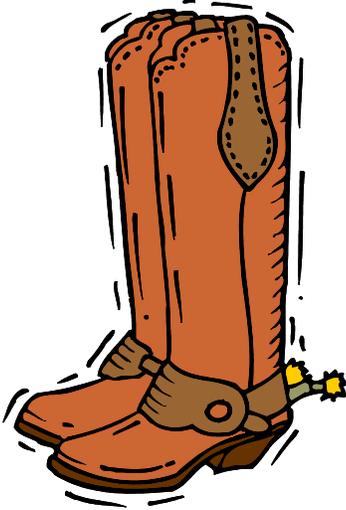


You Don't have to be King to be a Champion



Scripture References:

II Chron. 24:1-2 & II Chron. 34:1-3

INTRO: Champions are in the news all of the time. However, the champions mentioned in today's news are football, baseball, and basketball stars. We were at the PRCA rodeo this week and saw cowboys all striving to be a champion.

Usually you think of champions as people that are good at playing games!!!

I want us to learn about real champions, and my desire is for you to become a real champion.

You don't have to wait until you are grown up!!! You can be a champion in God's eyes at your age. We will see this in a few young people in the Bible.

How many in here are 7? How many are 8? We will look at two boys that became kings at that age and how they served the Lord.

Read *2 Chronicles 24:1-2 (King James Version)*

1Joash was seven years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years in Jerusalem. His mother's name also was Zibiah of Beersheba.

2And Joash did that which was right in the sight of the LORD all the days of Jehoiada the priest.

Joash – (880 BC) Ahaziah was the father of Joash and he was the king of Judah. Ahaziah was killed while Joash was a baby. When Ahaziah's mother heard of her son's death do you know what she did? You would have expected her to be sad and upset, but instead she had all of her other sons and grandchildren killed so she could be queen. If it had not been for a priest hiding Joash, he would have been killed with them.

- **If you think you have to be raised in a good family to be a champion with God, then think again.** Joash's grandmother was a mass murderer and he had no real family.
- **He didn't have a normal childhood.** He had to be hidden and he could not use his real name for fear of his life. I doubt he was able to go out in the front yard or to the park and play with the other kids.
- **At age 7 he was brought out of hiding and crowned king.** His step-grandmother, the queen, found out and came to stop Joash from becoming king (in other words, she came to kill him).

The priest and a bunch of the soldiers were ready. On the day he was crowned king; his grandmother was taken out kicking and screaming and then executed. This was not exactly a fairy tale happy ending story!

- **Joash had to be taught by Jehoiada, the priest, and he had great respect for him.** The Bible says that Joash did right in the sight of God all the days of Jehoiada. However, when Jehoiada died, Joash slowly stopped serving God. It is great that he had the Temple rebuilt and encouraged the nation to serve God while the priest was alive, but it would have been better if he had continued serving God all the days of his life!!! **Joash was a champion** for serving God in spite of the problems he faced and for rebuilding the Temple, but he could have done even more.

Read *2 Chronicles 34:1-3 (King James Version)*

1 Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned in Jerusalem one and thirty years.

2 And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the ways of David his father, and declined neither to the right hand, nor to the left.

3 For in the eighth year of his reign, while he was yet young, he began to seek after the God of David his father: and in the twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem from the high places, and the groves, and the carved images, and the molten images.

Josiah – (690 BC) Amon was the father of Josiah and he was the king approximately 190 years later. This king was evil and was killed. Now at age 8, Josiah was made king. Being king back then was a dangerous thing. If they didn't like you, a group organized and killed you. Josiah was made king because they killed his father. That would make me nervous!!!

- **Josiah loved God even though he had an evil, idol worshipping father that was the king.** Josiah did not have much time with his dad and nothing was said about his mother. However, somewhere in his young life he developed a love for the Lord and decided to live in a way that would please God. They did not know much about what God expected because no one had read or studied the Old Testament laws in a long time (we will go over that in a minute).
- **Josiah did not need a priest or preacher to keep him focused on the Lord.** He decided to do right because it was right!
- **Josiah tore down the places of idol worship and repaired the Temple.** During the rebuilding of the Temple they discovered the book of the Law of Moses. As soon as Josiah heard what was in God's Law, he got very upset at how far the country had strayed away from God. He spent the rest of his life trying to lead the nation of Judah back to following God's commands.
- **God blessed Josiah all his long life.** God delayed the judgment for the idolatry and sin of the nation for a whole generation just because of one man named Josiah! **This man was a super champion!!!**

How would you like to have that much power with God? Well: What is stopping you???