

ASA: THE MAN WITH FOOT TROUBLE

Int.

1. Aim: To show that Asa did obey God most of his life but in old age failed to trust in the Lord!
2. II Chron. 16:12 “And Asa in the thirty and ninth year of his reign was diseased in his feet, until his disease [was] exceeding [great]: yet in his disease he sought not to the LORD, but to the physicians.”
 - a. Asa was the 3rd king of Judah - reigned 41 years
 - b. An unusual thing mentioned about him is his foot trouble
3. Physical handicaps or oddities have been means of identifying Bible characters
 - a. One man had 6 fingers and 6 toes - II Sam. 21:20
 - b. Absalom had long hair - II Sam. 14
 - c. Bartimaeus was blind - Mark 10
 - d. Moses had a speech impediment - Exodus
 - e. Goliath - was a giant
4. Asa was noted for his foot trouble
 - a. Few people live to be old without some diseases and afflictions. - bodies begin to fail
 - b. King Asa's problem was exceeding great
 - c. His foot trouble was probably what we call gout
5. Notice some interesting lessons we can learn from this man named Asa

Discussion

I. FOLLOWED GOOD ADVICE WHEN YOUNG

A. Seek God and you will find him

1. II Chron. 15:2 "And he went out to meet Asa, and said unto him, Hear ye me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin; The LORD [is] with you, while ye be with him; and if ye seek him, he will be found of you; but if ye forsake him, he will forsake you."
 - a. Azariah spoke to Asa
 - b. In his first few years Asa had been seeking God's way
2. We should not deceive our self into thinking God cannot be found
 - a. He will be found if we seek him
 - b. I sa. 55:6 "Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:"
 - c. Jer. 10:23 "O LORD, I know that the way of man [is] not in himself: [it is] not in man that walketh to direct his steps."
 - d. "While He May be found" - If we forsake, he will forsake !
 - e. Those who waste away their time may find their opportunities for seeking God have vanished !
 - f. Acts 17:27 "That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us:"
3. Every time Israel or Judah turned to God He was found

B. Seek him with our strength

1. II Chron. 15:7 "Be ye strong therefore, and let not your hands be weak: for your work shall be rewarded."
2. If God is to be found we must seek him with strength
 - a. We must not have a faint spirit
 - b. The pursuit of God is not to be considered a week-end diversion.
 - c. It is a lifetime calling ! Col. 3:23 "And whatsoever ye do, do [it] heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;"

C. Israel had been without the true God

1. II Chron. 15:3 "Now for a long season Israel [hath been] without the true God, and without a teaching priest, and without law."
 - a. This is a deplorable condition for a nation or an individual
 - b. This condition had long prevailed in Israel.
2. Why was Israel in this condition?
 - a. They were without a teaching priest
 - b. When there is no teaching there is no faith or understanding of God's will
 - c. Hosea. 4:6 "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children."
3. We must have our pulpits and classrooms filled with those who will proclaim the word of God !
4. Israel had priests but they were not teaching the people and they became "without law."

D. This man Asa with foot trouble took the advice of the prophet of God.

II. ASA BROUGHT A SPIRITUAL REVIVAL

A. First Step is Courage

1. II Chron. 15:8 "And when Asa heard these words, and the prophecy of Oded the prophet, he took courage, and put away the abominable idols out of all the land of Judah and Benjamin, and out of the cities which he had taken from mount Ephraim, and renewed the altar of the LORD, that [was] before the porch of the LORD."
2. Before we can do God's will we must have the courage of our convictions
3. If we have convictions but no courage we will be a failure.

B. Second Step - get rid of what was wrong

1. One cannot go forward until he has gone backward and removed those things which are wrong in his life
2. Asa removed the things that God didn't like -abominable idols
3. No church can go forward as long as there are things that need to be removed
4. Achan - Joshua 7 - Josh. 22:20 "Did not Achan the son of Zerah commit a trespass in the accursed thing, and wrath fell on all the congregation of Israel? and that man perished not alone in his iniquity."
5. Col. 3:8-10 "But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. 9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; 10 And have put on the new [man], which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:"
6. Bring forth fruits of Repentance

C. Third step - Worship God

1. II Chron. 15:11 "And they offered unto the LORD the same time, of the spoil [which] they had brought, seven hundred oxen and seven thousand sheep."
2. They offered 700 oxen and 7,000 sheep
3. When a person obeys God it requires worship
4. Worship requires giving
5. John 4:24

D. Fourth Step - Make a Covenant with God

1. II Chron. 15:12 "And they entered into a covenant to seek the LORD God of their fathers with all their heart and with all their soul;"
2. They promised to put to death all who failed to seek God
3. Sealed with a loud voice and trumpets
4. All of Judah rejoiced at this covenant
5. Rom. 6:18 - servants of righteousness

E. Summary: Asa brought spiritual revival by:

1. Courage
2. Getting rid of what was wrong
3. Worshipping God
4. Making a covenant with God

III. ASA DETHRONED HIS OWN MOTHER

A. Maachah the queen practiced idolatry

1. II Chron. 15:16 "And also [concerning] Maachah the mother of Asa the king, he removed her from [being] queen, because she had made an idol in a grove: and Asa cut down her idol, and stamped [it], and burnt [it] at the brook Kidron."
2. He dethroned her because of this evil
3. He would not condone evil even in his own family
4. This was a drastic step but where evil is concerned no step is too drastic in purging it. Asa cut down her idol and burned it.

B. Application of this principle

1. We must have stronger spiritual ties than family ties!
2. We cannot approve of evil in our family
3. God must come before All
4. Luke 14:26 "If any [man] come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple." Hate means = love less

IV. RELIED ON MAN RATHER THAN GOD

A. His only weakness

1. It showed up late in life - - 36th year of his reign of 41 years
2. It is a mistake to think that temptations come only in our youth
 - a. No age when we are not open to the attacks of Satan
 - b. No age when we can retire from the services of God

- c. I Pet. 5:8 "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:"
- d. I Cor. 10:12 "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall."
- e. We never reach a plateau where we can rest at ease
- f. Heb. 12:1 "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset [us], and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,"

B. Asa's mistake

1. He relied on man in war -Baasha king of I srael came up against Judah - Asa sought help from Benhadad king of Syria - they defeated Baasha
2. II Chron. 16:7-10 "And at that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah, and said unto him, Because thou hast relied on the king of Syria, and not relied on the LORD thy God, therefore is the host of the king of Syria escaped out of thine hand. 8 Were not the Ethiopians and the Lubims a huge host, with very many chariots and horsemen? yet, because thou didst rely on the LORD, he delivered them into thine hand. 9 For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of [them] whose heart [is] perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars. 10 Then Asa was wroth with the seer, and put him in a prison house; for [he was] in a rage with him because of this [thing]. And Asa oppressed [some] of the people the same time."
3. The prophet or seer pointed this out to Asa

4. The seer was put in jail because of it
 - a. We must not become angry at a man because of the truth of God.
 - b. It is rebellion against God and self
 - c. Gal. 4:16 "Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?"

C. Another weakness - he relied on man in sickness

1. II Chron. 16:12 "And Asa in the thirty and ninth year of his reign was diseased in his feet, until his disease [was] exceeding [great]: yet in his disease he sought not to the LORD, but to the physicians."
2. Asa had diseased feet in his latter years
3. He called for physicians but not for God
 - a. It is not wrong to call for a doctor
 - b. But we must not forget to pray to God and ask His healing powers
 - c. Jas. 5:14
4. II Cor. 1:9 "But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead:"

Conclusion

1. The man Asa who had foot troubles was a good king but he was not perfect
2. He had spiritual troubles also
3. Our greatest troubles
 - a. Are not physical of the flesh
 - b. But those of the Spirit
 - c. III John 2 "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth."

4. Many problems of the flesh cannot be helped
5. But the problems of the spirit can be helped. We can be reconciled to God
6. We can seek him and He can be found.
7. This is our purpose for living.

Bibliography

C. Myron Keith Sermon No. 152 - File on Sermons by Keith

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