



Stuff They Didn't Teach Me In Sunday School



Episode 087 - Judah's Rock Bottom (2 Kings 21)

Hezekiah had the temple cleansed and restored true worship of Yahweh in Jerusalem. His son Manasseh brought the filth back in and made it much worse than it had been when Hezekiah found it.

- Should we judge parents by their children's actions or vice versa?
- How can parents best raise their children to be a blessing to the generations to come?

Not only was Manasseh a terribly wicked man, he was a leader who influenced God's people to become more wicked in their own lives. By the end of his long reign (the longest reign of any Judean king) the nation was worse than the Canaanites that God had driven out before the Israelites.

- Which people have had a negative influence on you?
- How did you come to recognize the impact they were having on you?
- How do you evaluate the influence you are having on other people?

2 Chronicles 33:10-20 gives an insight into Manasseh that 2 Kings leaves out. Because of his persistent refusal to listen to the prophets' call to turn from his evil ways, Manasseh was captured by the Assyrian king and dragged off with hooks and bronze chains. But there in Assyria he repented. This worst of all Judah's kings turned to Yahweh in his hour of distress, and God had mercy on him. God restored Manasseh to his throne in Jerusalem and Hezekiah's son began a period of reform in Jerusalem until his death. Sadly, Manasseh's son didn't learn from his example.

- Have you ever thought some people were so evil they were beyond redemption?
- Why do you think it sometimes takes disaster for God to get through to certain people?
- What things must you consider when you witness to someone bent on evil like Manasseh was?