

Winners & Losers – Part 3
God's Way is the Right Way
March 1, 2009

Who was Asa, king of Judah? 1 Kings 15:9-24

1. Asa did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, as his father, David, had done. Vs 11
2. Asa deported male shrine prostitutes and destroyed cultic places of worship at the high places. Vs 12
3. Asa even deposed his grandmother, Maacah, as Queen Mother because she had made an Asherah pole. Vs 13
4. Asa's heart was fully devoted to the Lord all his life. He did not cheat on God by having another god as a mistress. Vs 14
2 Chronicles 14:2-16:14
5. Asa commanded Judah to seek the Lord, and to obey his laws and commandments. 2 Chronicles 14:4
6. Asa trusted in the Lord when a large African army came against Judah. 2 Chronicles 14:11-12
7. Asa in his 15th year brought together all Judah and those in Israel who wanted to worship the Lord. They took an oath to obey the Lord. 2 Chronicles 15:9, 14-15

Spiritual decline is often subtle.

Symptom #1

He replaced trust in God...

- a. for trust in his own plans
- b. for trust in others 2 Chronicles 16:1

Symptom #2

He no longer accepted correction from God or godly people.
2 Chronicles 16:7-10

Symptom #3

He lost compassion for people. 2 Chronicles 16:10

Symptom #4

He refused to communicate with God. He gave God the silent treatment.

2 Chronicles 16:12-13

What are the lessons to be learned?

1. Wisdom and maturity that replace faith is neither wisdom nor maturity.
2. Success without God is not success at all.
3. If you no longer sense your need for God you probably have become your own Savior.
4. If you are too mature or old to be corrected you are a fool and fools make fools of themselves.
5. There is no better plan than God's plan.
2 Chronicles 16:9 Psalm 33:13-22 Psalm 34:15-16

QUESTIONS GOD IS ASKING YOU?

1. Is wisdom and maturity trying to replace my trust in God (faith)?
2. Have I experienced success without doing it God's way? If "yes" success is your deceiver.
3. Is God still an absolute necessity in my life or only occasionally important? Who or what took His place?
4. Have I arrived at the place where I no longer need God's correction or want it?
5. Is God's way the best way for me?
6. Do the rules still apply to me though I am older and wiser?
7. Do I take all the credit for my life achievements or am I grateful to my God?
8. Is there anything that I want so badly that I am willing to disappoint God to get it? Do I even care?