



The Crown of Pride

I Chronicles 26:1-21

Introduction:

I remember growing up and thinking that my grandfather could do anything. In my eyes he was one of the wisest men I knew. There wasn't anything that he couldn't fix; from a bike chain, to building a shed, to watering delicate roses just right so they would grow. Grandpa even knew from looking at the trees and smelling the air that a storm was coming! And say "Smells like rain." And sure enough...it would rain.

Grandfathers also have lots of pockets with interesting stuff in them. It always seemed like my grandfather had a half-dollar in his pocket. I can't imagine today carrying around a half-dollar in my pocket, but he did. Stuffed in those pockets was also a handkerchief, pocket knife, change purse and all sorts of interesting stuff to a young boy. But as anyone else who has a grandfather can attest, something that a Grandfather always has lots of – time.

That's how it should be. Time & Wisdom. But that's not always the case. I have found that the longer I live that I have grown disappointed in older men who should know better about decisions that they have made that ultimately destroyed their lives. Elihu, one of Job's counselors, mentioned, "Great men are not always wise: neither do the aged understand judgment." Job 32:9

Older doesn't always mean wiser. As a matter of fact the Bible is filled with stories of older people who started well and finished miserably: Noah, Abraham, Moses, etc... Today we will look at the life of one king whose name may not be familiar to you. It's a shame that his name isn't more prominent in the Bible—he had so much going for him, at least before the end of his life.

In I Chronicles 26 we find this man sitting on a golden throne as one of the most prosperous kings of Biblical history. Yet just below the sparkling crown we find a face bearing the look of indescribable physical pain. His name—Uzziah.

Transition:

"I'd like to focus our attention today on the sin of arrogance and the fruit of humility."

1. Uzziah [From Mixed Mentoring to Mountaintop Success] Never underestimate the power of godly influence.

Three essential elements of proper discipleship:

- A. Opportunity
- B. Relationship
- C. Godly Influence

2. Uzziah [From Teenage Technology to Transformed Nation] God can use a young person dedicated to Him!

- A. Spiritually
 - v. 4-5 "did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father Amaziah did...and he sought God in the days of Zechariah..."
- B. Personally
 - v. 5 "as long as he sought the LORD, God made him prosper."
 - v. 10
- C. Militarily
 - v. 12 2,600 special soldiers
 - v. 13 375,000 soldiers
 - v. 14 war engines, weapons, etc...
 - v. 15 "till he was strong"

3. Uzziah [From Crowned King to Shameful Stretcher] God's Holiness can only be approached by the humble.

Aaron and his sons were appointed by the law to burn incense, Ex 30:7. See De 33:10; 1Ch 23:13. David had blessed the people and Solomon and Jehoshaphat had prayed with them and preached to them. Uzziah might have done this, and it would have been to his praise; but as for burning incense, that service was to be performed by the priests only. The kingly and priestly offices were separated by the law of Moses, not to be united again but in the person of the Messiah

What are common pitfalls to a prideful person?

- press clippings
- personal financial security
- spiritual victories
- position
- power

-----"God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble."

A. God is not satisfied with any other attitude than total reliance upon Him.

B. God desires to help those who will seek after His leadership in their lives.

Conclusion:

- 1. What kind of attitude of your heart paralyzes your influence upon the next generation?**
 - 2. Who do you give credit to when you are praised?**
 - 3. When you approach the Holy One, how do you view yourself? Do you understand that you are approaching God upon the merits of Jesus Christ and not on your own?**
 - 4. Do you discount the ability of youth to be used by God to change the world?**
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