The Two Lives of Manasseh

Ken Chapman · 2 Chronicles 33:9–16

INTRODUCTION

- Change isn't easy. In fact, change is real hard. And that's certainly true of spiritual change.
- Change is hard, but change is necessary, isn't it?
- The story and the example of Manasseh is recorded in scriptures may be just maybe to remind us that change is hard, but it is possible.

1 We Can Provoke God to Anger by Our Sins

2 Kings 21:1–6; Romans 1:18

- The first lesson that we can learn is that we can provoke God to anger by our sins. Manasseh did.
- The wrath of God. That's not just an old testament expression. That's a new testament expression as well.
- We're all sinners. And without the forgiveness and the salvation that's offered in and by Jesus Christ, we'll all spend a miserable eternity in hell.
- We anger God by our sins. Manasseh did. We all do.

2 Sometimes We Need Something to Bring Us to Our Senses

- It was only when he had hit rock bottom that he wake up and turn to God. But sometimes we need that.
- These past events should be jarring reminders that God gets mad when you rebel against him. So you better change.
- It might be that bad news that's received by someone who's close to you. It might be the rebellious behavior of your children. It might be a near death experience.
- He had to be bankrupt financially and spiritually before he came to his senses and said, I'll go back to my father.
- Don't be spiritually cynical. Rejoice. That's what the angels in heaven will do.

3 Learn Those Lessons

Ecclesiastes 7:2

- Learn those lessons. Don't let those earth-jarring events be for nothing.
- For it is better to go to the house of mourning than to the house of feasting. For that is the end of all men. And the living will take it to heart.
- Every funeral that you attend should remind you that written upon your forehead is the famous saying, This one too shall pass.

4 Don't Wait for That

Luke 13:22–27

- Strive to enter through the narrow gate. For many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able.
- Sometimes we might need something to bring us to our knees to shock us to repentance.
- Don't wait for that. Because it might not ever come. If it comes, it might be too late.

5 In His Second Life, We Can Start Over

2 Chronicles 33:13–16

- When we think surely God will not love me anymore, or forgive me, we can start over.
- Don't ever forget the story of the prodigal son is not about the son, it's about the father.
- He took away the foreign gods and the idol from the house of the Lord.
- There was still a seed planted somewhere in there by his parents. So that when he did come back to God, he knew where to go and how to do it.

6 God Would Take Him Back

1 Corinthians 6:9–11; Romans 5:20

- The second thing that is remarkable, more remarkable, is that God would take him back after what he had done.
- Such were some of you, but you changed. And God took you back.
- Where sin abounded, grace abounded much more. You cannot out sin the grace of God.
- Manasseh in the old testament, and maybe Saul of Tarsus slash the Apostle Paul in the New Testament forever stand as examples that you can change. And that God will take you back.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Can we help you to like Manasseh begin your second life to become a new creature, a new creation in Christ this morning?**

MY NOTES