

There is a BIG lack of spiritual FATHERS and MOTHERS today because most in the Body of Christ don't understand first what it means to be a SON or DAUGHTER.

Every time the story of the Prodigal Son is told, we've seen a picture of waste, repentance, and restoration. What if it means something more? To understand this, let's first look at the lives of some other SONS we see in Scripture.

1. King Ahaziah... 2 Chronicles 22:1-4

- To understand Ahaziah, look at his mother... daughter of Ahab and Jezebel
- His trouble can be summed up in one scripture: (2 Chron. 22:3 NIV) "He too walked in the ways of the house of Ahab, for his mother encouraged him in doing wrong."
 - encouraged/counselor = (Hebrew - yâ`ats) to advise, to advertise
 - He only ruled on the throne for ONE year (killed by Jehu).

2 Chron. 22:10-12... ¹⁰When Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she proceeded to destroy the whole royal family of the house of Judah. ¹¹But Jehosheba, the daughter of King Jehoram, took Joash son of Ahaziah and stole him away from among the royal princes who were about to be murdered and put him and his nurse in a bedroom. Because Jehosheba, the daughter of King Jehoram and wife of the priest Jehoiada, was Ahaziah's sister, she hid the child from Athaliah so she could not kill him. ¹²He remained hidden with them at the temple of God for six years while Athaliah ruled the land."

2. King Joash / Jehoash...

- To understand Joash, look at his Aunt and Uncle... Jehosheba and Jehoiada
 - He is only 1 yrs old when father killed, grandmother wants him dead too so she can claim throne.
 - Uncle is a priest and he and his wife walk in a fear of the Lord.
 - Takes baby and hides him in temple for 6 years.

2 Chron. 23:1-3... ¹In the seventh year Jehoiada showed his strength. He made a covenant with the commanders of units of a hundred: Azariah son of Jeroham, Ishmael son of Jehohanan, Azariah son of Obed, Maaseiah son of Adaiah, and Elishaphat son of Zikri. ²They went throughout Judah and gathered the Levites and the heads of Israelite families from all the towns. When they came to Jerusalem, ³the whole assembly made a covenant with the king at the temple of God. Jehoiada said to them, 'The king's son shall reign, as the LORD promised concerning the descendants of David.'"

- strengthened himself = (Hebrew - chazaq) be courageous, to become obstinate
- Joash rules on throne for 40 years. He does many good things, but it doesn't end well.

2 Kings 12:1-3... ¹In the seventh year of Jehu, Joash became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem forty years. His mother's name was Zibiah; she was from Beersheba. ²Joash did what was right in the eyes of the LORD all the years Jehoiada the priest instructed him. ³The high places, however, were not removed; the people continued to offer sacrifices and burn incense there."

- As long as godly influence there, he was fine... but when gone, he made compromises.
 - 2 Chronicles 24:17-22
 - Matthew 23:33-36

3. King Josiah...

2 Chron. 34:1-2... *"Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem thirty-one years. ² He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD and followed the ways of his father David, not turning aside to the right or to the left."*

- Josiah's father was Amon (another wicked king), but Josiah is different than Ahaziah and Joash.
 - We don't see PEOPLE who influence him as he grows... but we do see how GOD moves on his heart.
 - 2 Chronicles 34:3-7
 - **16 yrs old...** "began to seek the God of his father David"
 - **20 yrs old...** "began to purge Judah of the altars and worship to false gods"
 - Dealing with idols his FATHER established!
 - began = (Hebrew - chalal) to wound; to break
 - Just in our WILLINGNESS to step out and do something, a BREAKING takes place!
 - **26 yrs old...** purifies and repairs temple in Jerusalem
- As cleaning out temple, they find "Book of the Law" (Deuteronomy)
 - When it's read to him, Josiah tears his robe and repents... calls a national fast of repentance.
 - Josiah ends up ruling on throne for 31 years... "never turning to the left or right"
- BUT, something AMAZING happens during his reign that we need to see:

Jeremiah 1:1-3... *"The words of Jeremiah son of Hilkiah, one of the priests at Anathoth in the territory of Benjamin. ² The word of the LORD came to him in the thirteenth year of the reign of Josiah son of Amon king of Judah, ³ and through the reign of Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah, down to the fifth month of the eleventh year of Zedekiah son of Josiah king of Judah, when the people of Jerusalem went into exile."*

4. Jeremiah...

- One year after Josiah began to purge Judah of the idols... after he began to "wound and break" demonic hold.
- Conditions that create room for Spirit of Prophecy to be released:

1. Seeking God / Making room for Him... like the Shulamite
2. Purging of sin.
3. Speaks in QUIET of worship AND in the midst of OVERTHROW!
4. AGE does NOT matter!

- child = (Hebrew - nahar) from infancy to adolescent... HE WAS A TEENAGER!

- What do we know about Jeremiah's parents... who were his spiritual influences?

Jeremiah 1:1... *"The words of Jeremiah son of **Hilkiah**, one of the priests at Anathoth in the territory of Benjamin."*

2 Chronicles 34:14... *"While they were bringing out the money that had been taken into the temple of the LORD, **Hilkiah** the priest found the Book of the Law of the LORD that had been given through Moses."*

- Jeremiah's father was the High Priest.

But we started all of this talking about ANOTHER SON...

5. Prodigal Son... Luke 15:11-24

- prodigal = (adj) wastefully or excessively extravagant; (noun) a person who spends their substance with wasteful extravagance
- Most familiar with the story... but don't look at it as example of SALVATION - look at it as understanding our place when it comes to INTERCESSION.
 - Son came DEMANDING... picture of when we stand in natural.
 - We don't have to demand... **I John 5:14-15...** *"This is the confidence we have in approaching God; that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us -- whatever we ask -- we know that we have what we asked of him."*
 - Son squanders his inheritance... "spends his substance with wasteful extravagance"
 - When we don't understand what we have (Who's house we are in) we waste our inheritance.
 - Selfish prayer... "bless me, heal me, give me"
 - What HAVE we been given?
 - Position... Ephesians 2:4-7
 - Authority... Luke 10:19
 - Son comes to place of HUMILITY... this opens door for Father to give him even MORE!

- Father restores his son's position.
 - Psalm 80:3; John 10:10; Leviticus 6:4-5; Joel 2:21

But this story has ANOTHER son...

6. Older brother... Luke 15:25-32

- He does not understand his PLACE in the Father's house:
 - "He became angry and refused to go in..." - Rejects the Father's invitation to be with him.
 - "slaving for you... your orders... this son of yours" - Doesn't see himself as a SON, but a SERVANT.
 - "not even a young goat..." - Doesn't see Father has made provision, his access to all Father has.

Luke 15:31... *"My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours.'"*

- This was his invitation to "spends his substance with wasteful extravagance"... but IN the Father's house!
 - This is OUR invitation, too... "Come, spend what I have purchased for you by Jesus' blood... spend your inheritance and ask me for SIGNIFICANT things!"
 - Remember the woman with the alabaster jar of perfume?

Mark 14:1-9... *"Now the Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread were only two days away, and the chief priests and the teachers of the law were scheming to arrest Jesus secretly and kill him. ²But not during the festival,' they said, 'or the people may riot.' ³While he was in Bethany, reclining at the table in the home of Simon the Leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head. ⁴Some of those present were saying indignantly to one another, 'Why this waste of perfume? ⁵It could have been sold for more than a year's wages and the money given to the poor.' And they rebuked her harshly. ⁶'Leave her alone,' said Jesus. 'Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. ⁷The poor you will always have with you, and you can help them any time you want. But you will not always have me. ⁸She did what she could. She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial. ⁹Truly I tell you, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.'"*

In Summary...

- We can be identified by our DYSFUNCTION or by our DESTINY... which **DAD** do you identify self with?
 - **Ahaziah** - from start he listed to the one he trusted, did the evil that she did, reign didn't last...
 - **Joash** - from start he had godly examples in life, did the good they did, but turned to bad council...
 - **Josiah** - from start he let GOD influence him, he made huge reforms, and as did SPIRIT of God begins to speak...
 - **Jeremiah** - from start has godly influence, at young age allows God to begin to use him...
 - **Prodigal** - starts selfish, ends up humble... realizes in end what his place in Father's house was...
 - **Older Brother** - appears faithful, ends bitter... never fully understood who he was and what access was...