

“Don’t Meddle to Your Own Hurt”

Amaziah was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he ruled in Jerusalem for twenty-nine years. His mother’s name was Jehoaddan, from Jerusalem. The Bible says, *“And he did what was right in the sight of the Lord, but not with a loyal heart”* (2 Chronicles 25:2, NKJV).

Let’s pause right there. Amaziah did what was right, but not with his whole heart. He was halfway in. Outwardly, he was doing the right things, but his heart wasn’t completely surrendered to God. That’s a good warning for us. You can go through all the motions—attend church, read your Bible, even serve in ministry—but still have a heart that’s not fully committed. God doesn’t just want good behavior; He wants a loyal heart.

When his kingdom was secure, Amaziah executed the servants who had assassinated his father. But he didn’t kill their children, because he obeyed the Law of Moses: *“The children shall not be put to death for their fathers, nor the fathers for their children; but a person shall die for his own sin”* (v. 4). That was a good move—Amaziah respected God’s Word in that moment.

Then, Amaziah gathered his army to fight against Edom. He even hired 100,000 mercenaries from Israel, paying them 100 talents of silver. But then a man of God came to him and said:

“O king, do not let the army of Israel go with you, for the Lord is not with Israel... But if you go, be gone! Be strong in battle! Even so, God shall make you fall before the enemy; for God has power to help and to overthrow” (vv. 7-8).

Amaziah replied, *“But what about the silver I’ve already paid them?”* The man of God answered, *“The Lord is able to give you much more than this”* (v. 9).

Application: Sometimes we’re tempted to lean on human strength, connections, or resources instead of God. And like Amaziah, we might say, “But I’ve already invested so much!” Yet God’s response is, *“I can give you more than what you’ve lost.”* Trusting God sometimes means letting go of what you think you need.

Amaziah listened to the prophet, sent the Israelite soldiers home—and they weren’t happy. On their way back, they attacked several cities in Judah.

Even so, Amaziah went ahead and defeated the Edomites. It was a clear victory, and God gave it to him.

But then—he made a terrible mistake.

He brought back the idols of the Edomites and *began to bow down to them* (v. 14). After God had given him victory, he turned around and worshipped the defeated nation’s gods. The Lord sent another prophet to confront him:

“Why have you sought the gods of the people, which could not rescue their own people from your hand?” (v. 15).

Instead of humbling himself, Amaziah arrogantly replied, *“Who made you my counselor? Be quiet or I’ll kill you!”* The prophet answered solemnly, *“I know that God has determined to destroy you, because you have done this and have not heeded my advice”* (v. 16).

Application: After a great victory, pride can sneak in. And pride is dangerous—it causes us to let our guard down, to make foolish choices, to stop listening to godly counsel. The tragedy is that Amaziah stopped listening to God, even after being warned. He started out strong, but he drifted.

Then, Amaziah picked a fight he shouldn’t have. He challenged Jehoash, the king of Israel, to a face-off. The king of Israel replied with wisdom:

“You have indeed defeated Edom, and your heart has lifted you up. Glory in that, and stay at home; for why should you meddle with trouble so that you fall—you and Judah with you?” (v. 19).

“why should you meddle with trouble so that you fall”

That line is worth underlining in your Bible and your heart.

But Amaziah wouldn’t listen. He insisted on going into battle—and he was soundly defeated. The walls of Jerusalem were torn down, the temple and palace were looted, and hostages were taken. It was a devastating loss.

Later, people conspired against Amaziah. He fled to Lachish, but they tracked him down and killed him there (v. 27).

Personal Application: Don’t Meddle With Sin

That phrase—*“Why should you meddle to your own hurt?”*—should ring in our hearts. How many times do we think we can handle temptation? We flirt with danger. We get too close to the edge. We think we’re strong enough to walk through the fire and not get burned.

But meddling with sin always brings damage:

- A part of our spiritual defenses gets torn down.
- It’s harder to resist the second time because we’ve already compromised.
- We lose treasures—purity, peace, innocence, intimacy with God.

And worst of all, we can become deaf to the voice of God. Like Amaziah, we stop listening to correction. We justify our actions. We walk in pride.

Victory is no guarantee of spiritual safety. In fact, some of our biggest spiritual dangers come right after a big win. We feel invincible. We think we’ve got it handled. That’s when the enemy strikes—and that’s when we’re most vulnerable to meddling where we don’t belong.

So let this be a warning and an encouragement:

- Stay humble after victory.
- Guard your heart.
- Don't lean on the arm of flesh.
- Don't meddle with sin.
- Keep listening to God, even when it's hard.

Finish well—not just with right actions, but with a loyal heart.