

Manasseh, the restored son.

Main passage: 2 Chronicles 33

Other passages: 2 Kings 21:16, Proverbs 22:6, Ecclesiastes 5:5-6. Matthew 15:18-19, 1 Kings 8:63, Ephesians: 5 and 6

How can you have sometimes cases in the bible in which spiritual men, men that were God's men had bad sons?

"I taught him well but he did not end up well". We see the bible full of cases in which great men of God had sons that sadly did terrible things.

Hezekiah the king, do not confuse him with the prophet Ezekiel, Hezekiah the king, God blessed him a lot, how good is to feel the blessing of God, is the most beautiful thing in the word. But at a point in his life he exalted himself but after he humbled himself, he looked for God and he repented, and God saved him from Senaquerib, the Lord sent an angel to save them from their enemies and all the enemies were destroyed, the prayer has power. Senaquerib went to his country humiliated in and in the temple of his god he got killed by his own sons, this was the end of a king that dared to go against the people of God.

With such a father as Hezekiah you would expect his sons to be like him, one of this sons the one that was the king was Manases and he did horrible things. 2 chronicles 33: 1. We see that he was a king with just 12 years old, that is very dangerous, too young, he was king for many years, he was king for 55 years, one of the longest in Juda. He did bad things in front of the eyes of the Lord, vers. 2, 3, 4. (Very sad). Vers 5, 6 (horrible), vers. 7, 8, 9, 10.

There is another verse that give us even more information. 2 Kings 21:16. How come from such a good father, a man so used by the Lord, so blessed, a son like this come out?. A son so bad and twisted but we see more cases like this in the bible, like the sons of Samuel the prophet or, King David's sons.

Maybe you are going through this situation in your life, as a father or a mother you are asking yourself how come your sons are doing things that are not what you thought them, doing things contrary to what they were taught, but we know the Lord has the last word.

Apparently Manasseh was an impossible case, he did things very very wrong, really horrible things. How is it possible this man did such things?. Seen the miracles God did for his father, how come did he acted this way?. Although sometimes it may seem that consequences will not come, consequences will come, they came to him, to Manasseh, and also consequences will come to those that go against God's will. In the case of Manasseh we can read the consequences in the next verses, vers. 11. Manasseh may be thought that nothing was going to happen but he was wrong, maybe he thought that God was going to do nothing, but he was wrong, God allowed for him to be taken as a prisoner to Babylon. Sometimes we need to go through a very hard time to realize that the way we have taken is not the right one and thanks God in the life of Manasseh there is a before and there is an after, so let's look to what happened to Manasseh. 2 Chronicles 33:12. This is a miracle for

a King to be freed and allowed to return again to his city, vers 13, this is a miracle, but he humbled so much that God listened to his prayer and he was restored to his kingdom. Manasseh recognised that the Lord was his God, vers 14, . We need to read this, Manasseh recognized and he prayed, he humbled, he repented and it was a genuine change. He asked for forgiveness and the Lord gave him a new opportunity and he truly changed, his life was transformed, he rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem, all his energy was into rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem, there was a genuine change in him.

He had a truthful change. He rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem and put officials to defend the cities. Verse 14, there was a genuine change in him, vers 15, took out all the idols and false Gods, all he did wrong he changed and corrected it , vers 16, he restored the altar of the Lord, vers. 17, vers 18, we see he realized the way he took was not the right one and God is so good and forgave him and gave him another opportunity to show if he truly had changed. God will always forgive and restore the people that want to be forgiven and changed by the power of God.

While I was thinking about this a verse came to my mind , “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” Proverbs 22:6. Is this a promise? A desire that is expressed here? I studied word by word and nearly letter by letter and it is interesting to know what is said in this text and of course is a promise. The book of proverbs is not characterized by lots of promises but here there is one that is extraordinary but is a conditional promise, it tells us what to do for the second part to get fulfilled literally.

Parents, you have to train up your kids. It is not for the sunday school teachers, is for the parents, this word to train in hebrew have three letters, means to train , to teach and also to dedicate, it has been translated as to dedicate in other parts of the bible. This is a big responsibility that God has given and that belongs to the parents, to teach the word of God. We see in the bible that when parents took very seriously the teaching of their kids it gave results and even when they went through hard troubles and difficult times that word in their hearts gave an extraordinary fruit.

Think about that kid of three months old that was left on the river Nile because the pharaoh wanted to kill all the boys. Their parents kept him at home and they observed the kid was good, they saw something in the baby and they knew that through that boy salvation could come for Israel in that time of history. They placed him in a sealed basket in the Nile river to save his life, her sister wanted to see what happened with his brother. He was found by the sister of the pharaoh, she found him crying and she realized he was jewish . He was taken to her mother to be breast fed, we don't know for how long he was living with his family but we know that she educated him in a way that he gets taken back to the pharaoh house and after 40 years the bible says that he goes out in the city to see how his people was. She trained him in such a way that he never forgot his origins after all those years, he knew he was not an egyptian and that that he was saved because God had a plan for him, nothing happens in our lives by chance. I want to you to see how the mother trained Moses for him not to forget that he was not an egyptian but that he was a son of the people of Israel and his God was the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, he never forgot that and that marked him during all his life.

What about Joseph? Sold by his brothers, taken to Egypt, he did not rebel against God, nor protested but, on the contrary, even though he went through horrible problems that we can not even imagine he was faithful to the Lord, he was with God and God was with him, every one realized of this. He was a youngster but he was different, the teachings in his house marked him during all his life. He told his brothers that everything that happened God allowed it so many lives would be saved, many prophecies got fulfilled because Joseph was faithful.

We see Manasseh, he repented in front of the Lord, he went back to the Lord. Moses, he never forgot his roots, his identity, we see Joseph. And Daniel? Taken to far away lands, they wanted to change him in everything, his name, food, religion, but in the inside they could not change him because from the first day he proposed in his heart not to get contaminated with anything they were going to give him. He died in Babylon with his faith in the Lord, faithful to the teaching he received as a kid while he lived in Jerusalem with his parents.

And Timothy? Her mother was a believer, his father not but her mother was, he was faithful to the Lord, he had good testimony. When Paul gets to know him tells him "now that I know you better, I see that the faith of your grandmother was passed to your mother and her passed it to you, the genuine faith that now is in you".

Sons and daughters they can go wrong as Manasseh, they can end up doing horrible things but praise God that we have a before and an after in the life of Manasseh. When he sees himself in a bad condition, as the prodigal son, he humbled himself in front of the Lord. Sometimes people need to go through a hard time to go back to the Lord and repent as the prodigal son.

There is not a lost case, God always has the last word.

1 Kings 8:63, this same word appears, dedicated, is the same word that is used in Proverbs 22:6, is the same word translated also as train up, also is translated as dedicated. The best thing you can do in your life and the best investment of your time is to dedicate your time to teach your kids in the ways of the Lord.

Train the kid in the mouth is the translation in Hebrew of that verse in Proverbs, the word mouth appears. The Bible talks about the importance of teaching our kids to talk properly concerning their vocabulary. There is a verse in the Bible that talks about the power of the mouth, it is in Ecclesiastes 5:5-6. It is better not to make a vow than to make one and not fulfill it. The power of the life is in the tongue. It is interesting to see how Jesus talked. It is important to teach our kids and it has a lot to do with the mouth, with the way in which you talk. Jesus said that what is really important is not what goes in by the mouth but what comes out of the mouth because that is what is in the heart, the mouth is a way out of the things that are inside our hearts. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of. (Matthew 12:34)

The word of God is so important, it is very important to have it, it is a very powerful tool to attack and defend ourselves from the devil, to live in victory. Teach the kid in the ways of the word of God, in the mouth, teach him to talk. How should we talk? As it says in Ephesians 5 and 6, with psalms, hymns, singing and praising God, giving always thanks to God in everything. My mouth to be an instrument to bring God's blessings.

We see examples of people with a strong influence and how they humbled and they remembered a forgiving God, that if they prayed, if they humbled before God, God can restore their life. How did they know that? Because of the seed their parents put one day in their heart, so this promise is for us this year, for those that have small kids, also for those whose sons and daughters are not at home any more, God's promises don't have frontiers, it doesn't matter where those sons and daughters that were at your home and listened to the word of God are, in any moment, even when you least expected it, that word can sprout again in their hearts, that teaching they listened from you, God can bring it to come out, to the light and produce a miracle you won't even imagine.

This week we have seen a miracle, Barbara had been praying for her sons, they lived far and for God there is nothing impossible, we went to her house and there one of her sons came to the Lord and the other brother that lives in Madrid is asking for churches nearby to be able to go.

Praise to the Lord because the work is His. (Testimony of how her sons have come to the Lord)

There is not impossible cases for God. Lest pray tonight for those sons and daughters that because of different reasons they have gotten cold, for whatever reason, there are not impossible cases for God, let's pray for the lives of all those sons and daughters. Look at Manasseh what a difficult case, humanly talking you could say that was an impossible case, he was not even in Jerusalem, he was a prisoner in Babylon. But that night in jail, cold, alone, he humbled himself before God, before the God of his parents, and he remembered and he looked after God and God forgave him first, and restored him and did something impressive, the enemies let him free to go back to Jerusalem as a king. This is incredible, many kings were taken to Babylon and there they died and never went back to Jerusalem but in this case Manasseh humbled before God and the results were very different from other kings. Is not the same to be in a bad situation without God than to be in a bad situation and pray to the Lord in the anguish and God will restore that life. People do not receive because they do not ask. Manasseh looked for God and asked for forgiveness, he humbled himself and repented for all he did. God always give us much more from what we ask or understand, he did horrible things but he repented, he asked for forgiveness, he only wanted God's forgiveness. God forgave him, restored him and took him back to Jerusalem and the later status was marvellous. Why can not this happen this week or during next months with your sons and daughters? To see them going to church, you thinking it can not be...Yes it can be!. I believe it, and you?

We pray tonight for all those sons and daughters that once were in your steps but they got cold and left you, your word motivates us to pray for them, touch them right now Father in the name of Jesus, bring to their minds those times of the past, Sunday school, youth camps,.. bring to their minds, those moments of prayer, weeks of glory and happiness, that the devil can not destroy any son or daughter of a believer that were taught in your word and even though they may have seen bad things or listened to bad conversations, have mercy and bring them back to you, to see them again praising you and serving you, one after another, one after another we will see them praising you God. Thank you Lord for the sons of our sister Barbara, they are the first, we ask you to see much more, all of them as Manasseh did, to return to your ways, let them go back to your ways. We give you all the glory and all the honour in the precious and blessed name of Jesus, Amen. Say to your brother or sister next to you: "Have faith, God will do it."