



Some time later Joash decided to restore the temple of the LORD. He called together the priests and Levites and said to them, "Go to the towns of Judah and collect the money due annually from all Israel, to repair the temple of your God. Do it now." But the Levites did not act at once.

They hired masons and carpenters to restore the LORD's temple, and also workers in iron and bronze to repair the temple. The men in charge of the work were diligent, and the repairs progressed under them. They rebuilt the temple of God according to its original design and reinforced it.

Restoration

2 Chronicles 24:4-5; 12b-13

Discussion Starter (Choose one of these to get your group talking)

- A. Have you ever been to a car show or toured a building that had been restored? If so, what did you most enjoy about the experience? What did you find to be most impressive?
- B. Have you ever been involved in the process of restoring something to its original condition? What kind of investment did it take to reach the goal? Why did you take up such a project?

A discussion of Restoration can take several forms. Because of the heritage of churches of Christ, some may wish to discuss some of its heritage. You may wish to focus on individuals, doctrines, slogans, etc. As valuable as these can be, please be sure to spend time in Bible Study. Right actions (orthopraxy) are motivated by right beliefs (orthodoxy). The value of this study may be found in observing God's people as they seek restoration.

From today's lesson (Groups may decide to only read and discuss one of the passages below)

2 Chronicles 24 (Joash and the Temple, parallel account in 2 Kings 12)

2 Chronicles 34-35 (Josiah, Temple & Book of the Law, parallel accounts in 2 Kings 22-23)

1. Why was the Temple in disrepair at the beginning of the reign of Joash?
 - a. Describe the spiritual condition of Judah as portrayed in this passage (see 2 Kings 12).
 - b. Describe the actions of the Levites (2 Chronicles 24). How could this be explained?
 - c. What was the source of the money used for the repairs? What was the attitude of the people?
 - d. How was the work described? What guidelines were followed in the Temple's restoration?
 - e. Describe Joash's last years? What could explain such a great change taking place in his life?
2. Why was the Temple in disrepair at the beginning of the reign of Josiah?
 - a. Describe this 2 Chronicles 34:1-8's portrayal of Judah's spiritual condition.
 - b. Describe the actions of the Levites (34:9-13). How could this be explained?
 - c. Describe the character of those who did the restoration work (2 Kings 22:3-7).
 - d. What is discovered in the Temple during the restoration work (2 Chronicles 34:14-17)? If it is "discovered" what does that imply?
 - e. Describe Josiah's response to it being read. What is Judah called to do (34:19-21, 29-33)?
 - f. What did Josiah contribute to the Passover (35:7)? What did others provide (35:8-9)? What does this suggest about his/their leadership?

Application (There is no need to try to address every question below; it may be more helpful to focus on just a few and work through them.)

[During the reigns of Kings Joash and Josiah the people of Judah were engaged in a restoration of the Temple in Jerusalem. That Temple, and those that followed in Jerusalem, were all destroyed.]

1. Under the New Covenant, what is described as the Temple of God (1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 2 Corinthians 6:16; Ephesians 2:19-22)? How could this “Temple of God” begin to suffer disrepair? What might be some indications of such taking place?
2. What would such a decline indicate about the spiritual condition of the people of God? What would it take for those involved to begin to recognize there was a problem?
3. How can people today be like the Levites in 2 Chronicles 24?
4. Who did the actual work on the Temple? In what way would you think this lesson could be applied to how people use their abilities and opportunities today? Is there anything that prevents that from happening in the Temple today?
5. When the people of Judah were asked to give to the rebuilding of the Temple they responded with joy. What brings about a similar response in God’s people today? What does not bring about that kind of response? Why?
6. What was done with the Law when it was discovered? In what way(s) can God’s word become “lost” to his people today? What remedies would you suggest?
7. How does God’s Word help lead in the process of restoration? Is restoration a desirable pursuit? Why would people want to follow the “original” directions? Why would they resist doing so?
8. Look at the descriptions of the various leaders mentioned in these two stories of restoration. What qualities and/or actions separated the effective leaders from those who were ineffective? Why does one King cease to honor God while the other leads Judah to greater devotion?

Actions

1. What needs to be “restored” in your life? In your relationship to God?
2. Is your life one which encourages restoration? How could your actions and involvement bring about a building up of the Temple of God?
3. Where do Christians today need to be more involved in restoration? What is the guide for setting those priorities? What will prompt God’s people to become more active?
4. Who has been a positive influence in your spiritual journey (like Jehoiadah and Hilkiah)? How can you actively seek to influence those who are younger than you (physically or in the faith)?
5. How can your group help in the restoration or maintenance of your spiritual life?
6. What part does the reading of God’s word play in your life?
7. How can your group help in sharing the good news of Jesus with others?