

Sermon Series: "A Believer's Family Album"—Lord of Life Lutheran, Westfield, IN----5/25/2003

Title: "Grandpa Uzziah: A Study in Contrasts"

Text: 2 Chronicles 26: 1-21

Intro: *Ills.: Grandparent parenting*

Theme: Living with a humble attitude and relationship to God throughout our lives shapes our golden years in such a way as to be vessels of His grace which can transform the generations to come.

A family snapshot of four kings (2 Chronicles 25-28)

• **Great-grandpa Amaziah – a compromised soul**

1. "He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, but not wholeheartedly." 2 Chron. 25: 2
2. Tried to be a man pleaser and God pleaser and did neither well (2 Chronicles 25: 5-16)
3. Assassinated and left behind a 16 year old boy king (**Print and read 2 Chronicles 26: 1-2**)

• **Grandpa Uzziah — good starter but finished poorly**

1. **Print and read 2 Chronicles 26: 3-5** (especially focusing on word "as long as he sought he Lord")
2. A great tactician in battle expanding Judah's boundaries to where King David had established them (vs. 6-8)
3. A marvelous civil engineer and inventor of advanced weaponry and tools (vs. 9-10, 14-15)
4. Undone by his own pride and uncontrollable temper (**Print and read 2 Chronicles 26: 16-21**)

• **Dad/son Jotham — a shining light but carrying a lot of baggage**

1. "He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, just as his father Uzziah had done, but unlike him he did not enter the temple of the LORD. The people, however, continued their corrupt practices." 2 Chron. 27:2
2. Jotham, a model believer and roll family model, yet he inherited a whirlwind of consequence of his father's sins
3. Living under the grace, sovereignty, and power to deliver that the God of the resurrection promises
4. "He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us." 2 Cor. 1:10

• **Grandson Ahaz — rotten through to the core**

5. "Ahaz was twenty years old when he became king . . . he did not do what was right in the eyes of the LORD. He walked in the ways of the kings of Israel and also made cast idols for worshiping the Baals. He burned sacrifices in the Valley of Ben Hinnom and sacrificed his sons in the fire, following the detestable ways of the nations the LORD had driven out before the Israelites." 2 Chron. 28:1-3
6. Impact of grandparenting—Jotham grew up during Grandpa Uzziah's godly years; Ahaz saw Uzziah in his ungodly

Evaluating the heritage you received, you are preparing, and your are handing off

• **Confronting generational sin**

1. "For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments." Exodus 20:5-6
2. Often we are living out the consequence of the previous generation's sin in our present lives and find no respite

• **Ills.: Don't recycle old life**

3. Unlike Uzziah not letting the weeds of sinful pride and rage flourish until they have taken over our lives and family
4. Passing on the spiritual rhythm in our lives and to our family of repentance, confession, and forgiveness
 - "This is what the Sovereign LORD, the Holy One of Israel, says: `In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength.'" Isaiah 30:15

• **Choosing the path which we walk, wisely**

1. **Ills.: Paying Attention**

2. Because others watch and follow and seemingly inconsequential matters are where eternal battle is won or lost
3. "Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace." Rom 6:13-14

- Passing on righteousness to the next generation
 4. *"We will not hide them from their children; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done. He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which he commanded our forefathers to teach their children, so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands."* Psalm 78: 4-7

Grandparent parenting

The number of children being raised by grandparents without a parent in the home: 1,017,000. Abandonment, incarceration, drugs, death, mental illness—these are some of the reasons four million American kids are no longer living with their parent(s). In more than 2.5 million families, this responsibility has been assumed by one or both grandparents. These "skipped generation households" have increased by more than 50 percent in the last 10 years. In almost one third of these families the parents are completely absent. In other cases, parents are occasionally present but are emotionally or financially incapable of taking care of their kids. "Contrary to the stereotype of the inner-city welfare mom who's raising her teenage daughter's baby, the majority of grandparent caregivers are white, between the ages of 50 and 64, and live in non-metropolitan areas." There are more than 700 support groups nationwide that lobby government for legal rights and financial support for grandparent caregivers. Because their guardianship is often informal, grandparents also have problems getting medical care for the kids and enrolling them in school. The first housing facility designed for grandparent-headed households opened in Boston in 1998. Twenty-six families now live in the home. Carl Bowman shares an apartment with his wife and 9-year-old grandson. "I don't know where we'd be without this place," he says. "We're all in the same boat here. We all help one another."

Don't Recycle Old Life

In the late 1920s my grandparents married and moved into Grandpa's old family home. It was a clapboard house with a hall down the middle. In the '30s they decided to tear down the old house and build another to be their home for the rest of their lives. Much to my grandmother's dismay, many of the materials of the old house were re-used in their new house. They used old facings and doors, and many other pieces of the finishing lumber. Everywhere my grandmother looked, she saw that old house—old doors that wouldn't shut properly, crown molding split and riddled with nail holes, unfinished window trimming. It was a source of grief to her. All her life she longed for a new house. When God brings us into the kingdom, the old way of living must be dismantled and discarded. *Citation: Len Sullivan, Tupelo, Mississippi*

Paying Attention

Four-year-old Jason was visiting his grandparents. Grandpa was in his study intently reading. Jason walked in carrying a peach, said something Grandpa didn't catch, and handed the peach to him. Thinking his wife had sent him a snack, Grandpa took it and ate it. Just as he swallowed the last bite, Jason, with lip quivering, said, "But, Pap, I didn't want you to eat it. I just wanted you to get the worm out!" *Citation: Sue Hammons, Lubbock, Texas. Christian Reader, "Lite Fare."*

2 Chron. 26:1-21

¹Then all the people of Judah took Uzziah, who was sixteen years old, and made him king in place of his father Amaziah. ²He was the one who rebuilt Elath and restored it to Judah after Amaziah rested with his fathers. ³Uzziah was sixteen years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem fifty-two years. His mother's name was Jecoliah; she was from Jerusalem. ⁴He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, just as his father Amaziah had done. ⁵He sought God during the days of Zechariah, who instructed him in the fear of God. As long as he sought the LORD, God gave him success. ⁶He went to war against the Philistines and broke down the walls of Gath, Jabneh and Ashdod. He then rebuilt towns near Ashdod and elsewhere among the Philistines. ⁷God helped him against the Philistines and against the Arabs who lived in Gur Baal and against the Meunites. ⁸The Ammonites brought tribute to Uzziah, and his fame spread as far as the border of Egypt, because he had become very powerful. ⁹Uzziah built towers in Jerusalem at the Corner Gate, at the Valley Gate and at the angle of the wall, and he fortified them. ¹⁰He also built towers in the desert and dug many cisterns, because he had much livestock in the foothills and in the plain. He had people working his fields and vineyards in the hills and in the fertile lands, for he loved the soil. ¹¹Uzziah had a well-trained army, ready to go out by divisions according to their numbers as mustered by Jeiel the secretary and Maaseiah the officer under the direction of Hananiah, one of the royal officials. ¹²The total number of family leaders over the fighting men was 2,600. ¹³Under their command was an army of 307,500 men trained for war, a powerful force to support the king against his enemies. ¹⁴Uzziah provided shields, spears, helmets, coats of armor, bows and slingstones for the entire army. ¹⁵In Jerusalem he made machines designed by skillful men for use on the towers and on the corner defenses to shoot arrows and hurl large stones. His fame spread far and wide, for he was greatly helped until he became powerful. ¹⁶But after Uzziah became powerful, his pride led to his downfall. He was unfaithful to the LORD his God, and entered the temple of the LORD to burn incense on the altar of incense. ¹⁷Azariah the priest with eighty other courageous priests of the LORD followed him in. ¹⁸They confronted him and said, "It is not right for you, Uzziah, to burn incense to the LORD. That is for the priests, the descendants of Aaron, who have been consecrated to burn incense. Leave the sanctuary, for you have been unfaithful; and you will not be honored by the LORD God." ¹⁹Uzziah, who had a censer in his hand ready to burn incense, became angry. While he was raging at the priests in their presence before the incense altar in the LORD's temple, leprosy broke out on his forehead. ²⁰When Azariah the chief priest and all the other priests looked at him, they saw that he had leprosy on his forehead, so they hurried him out. Indeed, he himself was eager to leave, because the LORD had afflicted him. ²¹King Uzziah had leprosy until the day he died. He lived in a separate house --leprosy, and excluded from the temple of the LORD. Jotham his son had charge of the palace and governed the people of the land.

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