ADOPTED AT GREAT RISK
2 Kings 11

Where do we learn the most important lessons of our life?

Moody's *Today in the Word* tells about **Anthusa**, a widow in Antioch in 4th C.

Her name isn 't familiar to us.

Yet quietly in the background, she raised a son, John Chrysostom.

A woman of faith in a pagan society,

she trained her son to ***honor God* and ***do what's right*.**

Chrysostom became a godly leader of the church,

because of training by a godly mother, working quietly in background.

Mothers often fulfill that kind of role, working quietly in the background.

In 2 Kings 11 we meet ***a young man who never had a chance*.**

To begin with, he doesn't have a chance to *survive*.

His grandmother is determined to kill him when he's 1 yr. old,

so *she* can become ruler of Judah.

Then, the family tradition he grew up with is the treacherous tradition of Ahab and Jezebel.

How could HE ever have a chance
to become a godly king to lead God's people?

Not likely to *live*, much less to live a godly life!

It all goes back to Jehosheba, a godly woman who's willing to adopt him into her home, at great personal risk.

God intervenes to protect Joash; to give him a new home and a new mom; a godly mom who works quietly in the background,

training him to honor God and do what's right.

In the process, he picks up a godly *father*–rightly married to godly woman.

Together a godly mother *and* godly father combine to teach Joash

the importance of honoring God and doing what's right.

While Jehoiada the priest is most visible, the influence of Jehosheba, quietly at work in the background, is evident.

Their *combined* efforts demonstrate the importance of marrying someone who shares your goals and your values.

Godly people should seek godly spouses

–not just the first person to come along who cares about you!

This godly *woman* gets the credit for taking a risk and taking him in.

As far as we can tell, Jehosheba trains him for first 6 years of life

–after that Jehoiada, her husband, is key influence in his life.

BOOK OF KINGS Let's go back and pick up the flow:

Kings is **a two-part book of object lessons**, designed to teach us . . .

. . . the importance of whole-hearted commitment to God.

. . . the danger of playing games with God and going our own way.

It's message:

God blesses Israel when its king and its people follow Him.

When they turn from Him, it leads to decline and judgment.

Theme is taught by Solomon's *positive* example at the beginning of his reign.

When he turns from God to idols, his *negative* example sounds a warning.

1 Kings turns on pivotal chapter 11.

First 10 chapters describe Solomon's wisdom, fame, and glory,
during years when he seeks to follow God.

1 Kings 11 shows how **prosperity => polygamy => idolatry => spiritual decline => division of kingdom**

Remainder of book describes decline of northern kingdom
and the roller coaster spirituality of the southern kingdom.

DEGENERATION OF KINGS OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH 1 Ki. 15- 2 Ki. 17

Israel never had a good king!

It had "good-bad" kings–who worshiped Yahweh, but did it man's way.

It had "bad-bad" kings–who worshiped pagan gods.

God considers them all bad.

Their influence on God's people is negative.

Yet some of Israel's bad kings who follow Yahweh are better than some of Judah's bad kings that worship pagan gods.

Judah only had eight good kings out of twenty.

Jehosheba's story is found in one of the worst epochs of Judah's history:

Evil reign of Omri over Israel 1 Ki. 16:21-28

Omri establishes one of most sinful dynasties to rule over Israel.

Politically Omri was a significant leader.

Spiritually Omri's dynasty <u>ruined all Israel and Judah</u>.

He imports pagan practices from alliances with pagan nations.

Evil reign of Ahab over Israel 16:29-22:40

Ahab, Omri's son, marries Jezebel, king of Sidon's daughter.

Her influence is felt in both Israel *and* Judah for generations.

Evil reign of Jehoram over Judah 2 Ki. 8:16-24

Jehoram establishes <u>marital alliance</u> with <u>Ahab's daughter</u>.

Thus Ahab and Jezebel's influence extends into Judah also. **<u>8:17-19</u>**

Jehoram was thirty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem eight years.[18] He walked in the ways of the kings of Israel, as the house of Ahab had done, for he married a daughter of Ahab. He did evil in the eyes of the LORD.[19] Nevertheless, for the sake of his servant David, the LORD was not willing to destroy Judah. He had promised to maintain a lamp for David and his descendants forever.

Jehosheba didn't have an ideal start for godly living!

She's Jehoram's daughter.

Yet she makes the opposite choice from her father.

She makes decision to <u>honor God</u> and <u>do what's right</u>.

She opts for godliness, in spite of family background.

God honors her choice by using her for a special purpose.

She becomes wife of the godly High Priest,

and protector of David's line–it could cost her life, and her family.

Evil reign of Ahaziah over Judah 8:25-29 26-27

Jehoram's son imitates evil influence of his grandparents.

Ahaziah was twenty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem one year. His mother's name was Athaliah, a granddaughter of Omri king of Israel.[27] He walked in the ways of the house of Ahab and did evil in the eyes of the LORD, as the house of Ahab had done, for he was related by marriage to Ahab's family.

Ahaziah is taught by HIS mother quietly in background to imitate *Ahab*!

When Jehu takes over the northern kingdom,

he wipes out Ahab's family. Ahaziah is one of those Jehu kills.

Evil reign of Athaliah over Judah 11

Murder and usurpation of throne 11:1

When Ahaziah's mother, Athaliah, Ahab and Jezebel's daughter, realizes her son is dead,

she eliminates all candidates for the throne, including her own sons and grandsons.

She claims the throne for herself.

11:1 *When Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she proceeded to destroy the whole royal family.*

Protection and installation of Joash 11:2-12 2-3

Her grandson, Joash, is protected by Jehosheba, her daughter or step-daughter, who is married to Jehoiada, the high priest.

[2] But Jehosheba, the daughter of King Jehoram and sister of Ahaziah, took Joash son of Ahaziah and stole him away from among the royal princes, who were about to be murdered. She put him and his nurse in a bedroom to hide him from Athaliah; so he was not killed.[3] He remained hidden with his nurse at the temple of the LORD for six years while Athaliah ruled the land.

She didn't just protect Joash!

Satan is attempting to destroy David's seed and God's promise.

Jehosheba preserves David's seed *and* God's promise.

After protecting Joash six years in the temple,Jehoiada arranges for him to take over the throne, at seven years of age! **4, 12**

[4] In the seventh year . . . . [12] Jehoiada brought out the king's son and put the crown on him; he presented him with a copy of the covenant and proclaimed him king. They anointed him, and the people clapped their hands and shouted, "Long live the king!"

Athaliah is then captured and killed.

Death and purification 11:13-20 13-18 *When Athaliah heard the noise made by the guards and the people, she went to the people at the temple of the LORD.[14] She looked and there was the king, standing by the pillar, as the custom was. The officers and the trumpeters were beside the king, and all the people of the land were rejoicing and blowing*

trumpets. Then Athaliah tore her robes and called out, "Treason! Treason!" [15] Jehoiada the priest ordered the commanders of units of a hundred, who were in charge of the troops: "Bring her out between the ranks and put to the sword anyone who follows her." For the priest had said, "She must not be put to death in the temple of the LORD." [16] So they seized her as she reached the place where the horses enter the palace grounds, and there she was put to death. [17] Jehoiada then made a covenant between the LORD and the king and people that they would be the LORD's people. He also made a covenant between the king and the people. [18] All the people of the land went to the temple of Baal and tore it down. They smashed the altars and idols to pieces and killed Mattan the priest of Baal in front of the altars. Then Jehoiada the priest posted guards at the temple of the LORD.

Joash and Jehoiada unite efforts to <u>restore Judah</u>.

They eliminate all the remnants of Baal worship
and call God's people back to faithfulness to their God.
They lead people in repairing the temple, as a place worthy of God.
Under his leadership, people give generously and gladly,
they fill the treasury repeatedly, **=> The temple is restored.**

Who gets credit for bringing about revival and reform of their people?

Jehosheba rescues Joash and hides him in bedroom of her house.
She adopts him as her own, at great risk to herself and her family.

Who do you suppose takes responsibility to see that he's trained in the way he ought to go?

He didn't learn to follow Yahweh in his father's house!

Jehosheba <u>honors God</u> and <u>does what's right</u>,
even at <u>great personal risk</u>.
The son she takes in <u>learns from her example</u>
to <u>honor God</u> and <u>do what's right</u>.

The truth is passed on to the next generation.

"If it's that important for her, it must be important for my life!"

Good reign of Joash over Judah 12

Joash is classified as "<u>a good king</u>" in God's sight.

<u>12:1-2</u> *In 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. [2] Joash did what was right in the eyes of the LORD all the years Jehoiada the priest instructed him.*

That's largely the result of Jehosheba's influence in his life.

She took great personal risk.
Ahab and Jezebel's family was a treacherous family.
Athaliah might have killed her.
It did cost the life of her son, Zechariah, who stood up to Joash.

His reign is called **"good" for two reasons:**

He leads in reforms which <u>eliminate Baal worship</u>.

He supervises and promotes <u>temple repairs</u>.

Joash isn't a *perfect* king, yet God identifies him as a good king.

After Jehoiada dies, Joash <u>neglects the temple</u>
and the people <u>turn away from the Lord</u>.

Zechariah the high priest, Jehoiada and Jehosheba's son, confronts Joash: *"Why do you disobey the Lord's commands? You will not prosper. Because you have forsaken the Lord, He has forsaken you."* **<u>2 Chron. 24:20</u>**

As a result, Joash orders that Zechariah be stoned to death.

Hardly a perfect king.

Yet in contrast to his family, his influence on the nation is positive –he leads them back to God.

His reign concludes: he's assassinated by his own officials.

IMPLICATIONS FOR THEM

Jehosheba was a <u>faithful mother</u>.

She undoubtedly <u>nudges both Jehoiada and Joash</u>
to be all God wants them to be.

Jehoiada is <u>faithful to the end</u>. He <u>finishes well</u>.

What happens to Joash? **<u>Proverbs 22:6</u>**: "*Train up a child ...*"

A proverb: General principle for successful, contented living.

Not absolute promise that godly parents always raise godly kids.

Not a cause to *<u>blame</u>* parents when children turn away from God.

Biblical examples:

<u>Godly</u> parents sometimes have <u>children who turn away</u>;
<u>Ungodly</u> parents have <u>children who turn to God</u>.

Jehosheba is a case in point.

Never had chance; yet she chooses to honor God and do right.

Joash goes the opposite direction.

He's trained well.

He starts down path of honoring God and doing right.

He chooses to turn away from God and dies in disobedience.

Jehoiada finishes well and is buried with the kings.

Joash doesn't finish well; he isn't buried in honor among kings.

LESSONS FOR US

We must *choose* to <u>honor God</u> and <u>do right</u>.

We <u>train our children</u> to <u>honor God</u> and <u>do right</u>.

For mothers, it's often like it was for Jehosheba: a task done quietly in the background–but it's impact may last for generations.

Our children are <u>responsible before God</u>
for <u>their own choices</u> –just like WE are!

But our training will make an impact.

Consider for a moment what Joash was rescued from–
Where would he have been without Jehosheba?
Where would *WE* be without a godly mother in the background?