

## Recycled Faith 2 Chronicles 24

### Recycled Faith Introduction

- Fill in any name you want for the story:
  - A young woman is raised in a Christian home.
  - She attends Christian schools.
  - She goes off to college.
  - She meets many wonderful, non-Christian people.
  - Her faith disintegrates.
  
  - A young man is raised in a Christian home.
  - His faith seems strong all through high school.
  - He enters the military and gets to see the world.
  - His faith disappears.
- Feel free to change a few other details.
- The point is the same.
- Unless we make our faith our own, it is not yet real.
  
- Secondhand faith doesn't really exist.
- God only has children – no grandchildren.
- Recycled faith is really no faith at all.
- Each of us individually has to make our faith our own.

### Recycled Faith Historical Background

- ~~Jehoram~~ ----- ~~Athaliah~~ (~~Six Brothers of Jehoram~~)
- ~~Ahaziah~~ – killed by Jehu, with descendants of Ahab.
  - ~~Athaliah~~ kills other royals to reign herself.
  - Joash – hidden by his Aunt Jehoshabeath and Uncle Jehoiada the priest.
    - ~~Athaliah~~ is later killed in an uprising of the people led by Jehoiada, the priests and the military.
  
- Joash is now on the throne as king – symbolically.
- He is still only seven years old.
- Jehoiada the priest is acting as ruler of Judah.

### **Recycled Faith 2 Chronicles 23:14-21**

- This background brings us up to our actual chapter.
- As we read, remember these points:
  - Secondhand faith doesn't really exist.
  - God has only children – no grandchildren.
  - Recycled faith is really no faith at all.
  - Each of us has to make our faith our own.

### **Recycled Faith 2 Chronicles 24:1-3**

- 24:2 Joash did what was right ...
- Key Phrase: all the days of Jehoiada the priest.

### **Recycled Faith 2 Chronicles 24:4-14**

- 24:14 And they offered burnt offerings ... regularly
- Key Phrase: all the days of Jehoiada.
- A clear pattern has emerged.
- We can thank God for the helpful influence of Jehoiada.

### **Recycled Faith 2 Chronicles 24:15-16**

- Jehoiada was a bold, courageous, influential man of faith.
- He still could not pass on his faith to his people or to his king – even though he lived 130 years.

### **Recycled Faith 2 Chronicles 24:17-19**

- The faith of Joash was, alas, merely a recycled faith.
- It was not so much connected to God as it was to Jehoiada.
  
- At this point Joash might have been influenced by either the prophets or by the princes of Judah.
- The “princes” are more like “officials” or “noblemen.”
- He chose to let the princes influence him.

### **Recycled Faith 2 Chronicles 24:20-22**

- Zechariah the son of Jehoiada seems to have inherited his father's boldness.
- He does not, however, get to live a long and influential life.
- Joash made his choice – to side with the idolatrous princes.
- Recycled faith is really no faith at all.
- Each of us has to have an original, personal faith.

## Recycled Faith 2 Chronicles 24:23-27

- These were dark days in the Kingdom of Judah.
- The histories of Israel and Judah are largely histories of departure from God and decline.

## Recycled Faith Conclusions

- In Luke 18:8, Christ asks a question saying, “Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”
- Is our faith, your faith and mine, an original, personal faith?
- Does our faith connect us directly with the Father through Jesus Christ the Son, or is there some other mediator?
- Are we convinced that Christ died and rose again for us?
- Ours could be just an outward form of Christianity.
- Ours could be “the faith of our fathers,” but not our own.
- Ours could be the faith of our mother, or friend or spouse.
- Faith cannot be melted down, reformed, remade and reused by anyone else.
- It cannot be handed off or borrowed.
- Each of us has to have an “ours-and-ours-only,” original, personal faith.
- Even a bold and influential man like Jehoiada could not pass his faith on to his people or to his king.
- It cannot be done.
- Even if we live to be 130 years old.
- Recycled faith is really no faith at all.
- Each of us has to have an “ours-and-ours-only,” original, personal faith.

## A Final Prayer

- Father in Heaven,
- I commit myself personally to you.
- I believe that your Son Jesus Christ, died for me and rose again in order that I might be saved.
- I acknowledge that there is and can be only one Mediator between You and me – and that is Jesus the Christ.
- Please forgive me of my sins, fill me with Your Spirit, and give me eternal life.
- It’s in Jesus’s name that I pray. Amen.