

RIDICULOUS FAITH | WEEK 4

READ ALOUD:

Jehoash [or Joash, as some Bible translations read] is the king of Israel, and he's reigning at a very challenging time in Israel's history. Though many in Israel desire to honor the one true God, they've had a long run of kings who've publicly endorsed idol worship among the people. One king in particular — Jehu — was noted to have taken an incredibly strong stance against worshipping false Gods [and when I say 'strong stance' go ahead and think, "he killed anyone who did... and then some!"], but within a generation or two the Israelites are right back at it with full-on pagan idol worship. Skip ahead a few more years and we land at the feet of Jehoash — a king at war with Judah, and he's desperately hoping for a special favor from God and his prophet, Elisha. Unfortunately, however [and like many of the kings who've gone before him], Jehoash struggles to give his full devotion to God.

Let's read 2nd Kings 13:14-19 together.

2 KINGS 13:14-19 (NLT) ELISHA'S FINAL PROPHECY



14 When Elisha was in his last illness, King Jehoash of Israel visited him and wept over him. "My father! My father! I see the chariots and charioteers of Israel!" he cried.

15 Elisha told him, "Get a bow and some arrows." And the king did as he was told. 16 Elisha told him, "Put your hand on the bow," and Elisha laid his own hands on the king's hands.

17 Then he commanded, "Open that eastern window," and he opened it. Then he said, "Shoot!" So he shot an arrow. Elisha proclaimed, "This is the Lord's arrow, an arrow of victory over Aram, for you will completely conquer the Arameans at Aphek."

18 Then he said, "Now pick up the other arrows and strike them against the ground." So the king picked them up and struck the ground three times. 19 But the man of God was angry with him. "You should have struck the ground five or six times!" he exclaimed. "Then you would have beaten Aram until it was entirely destroyed. Now you will be victorious only three times."

OBSERVATIONS



1. Why was Jehoash distraught when Elisha was dying?
2. What caused Elisha's anger when Jehoash struck the ground three times?
3. How did Jehoash striking the ground only three times demonstrate his faith?
4. What else do you observe in this passage?

APPLICATION



1. What differences do you see in a person that gives halfhearted effort to complete a task and a person that gives it their all?
2. What areas of your life do you find difficult to give God your best and why?
3. God has designed us with unique passions and skills and wants us to do something significant with our lives. What ways does a person's faith in God determine the size of their goals?
4. How do you keep from falling short and settling for less?
5. What are some ways people can be intentional about being obedient to God?
6. Where in your life are you being called to be obedient and trust God?
7. What do you think of Pastor Steve's statement that "God does not call us to do more because He wants something from us, God calls us to do more because He wants something for us"?

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GOING DEEPER

Read Matthew 22:36-38

1. Total surrender is to love God with all your being. What does it look like to love God with all your heart, soul and being?
2. How can we inspire others to do the same?

PRAYER


