



LIFE *On* MISSION

ADVENTIST CHURCH *in Sydney*

MAKE THE MISSIONAL MOVE (TO SAVE)

2 Chron 23:1-11

INTRO

- Today's Word is entitled Make the Missional Move (to save)
- In 2 Chron 23 there is a story about a priest named Jehoiada who brought about the downfall of an illegitimate queen & the enthronement of Israel's youngest king – Joash
- Who was only 6 years old when he was crowned.
- But the story really begins in c.22

Background to story...

- Joash's father Ahaziah became king after his father had died
- But Ahaziah was a cruel king – who ignored God
- Ahaziah made enemies very quickly with those around him
- And 1 day he was assassinated
- Athaliah – Joash's grandmother – heard about her son – Ahaziah's death
- And quickly moved to kill all the princes – including her grand-kids – who might inherit the throne – so she could rule instead
- Jehoiada (the priest) & his wife – by impulse – grabbed Joash who was only a baby - & fled with the child to God's temple
- And hid Joash in there for 6 years.

- Anyone seen – The Chronicles of Narnia? Lion, Witch & Wardrobe
- Remember the "Queen of Narnia", the White Witch?
- Well she had nothing on Athaliah –
- Athaliah was evil personified – she'd be North Korea's supreme leader Kim Jong-un & Hitler all rolled up into female form!
- She removed all religious liberty
- And instigated her own religion & forced everyone to follow it
- She oppressed her people – God's people

- And, she created an environment of fear & hopelessness

There's a parallel to our time

- Have you noticed the oppression & depression our world – on a global scale – is in right now?
- Statistics show that more people in the 3 generations alive today – Baby Boomers – Gen Xers – Gen Ys – suffer from depression – than in any other generation in human history
- Fear grips our world – our culture – our economy – our Governments – our media – our world leaders – our businesses – our **thinking** -- more than ever before
- The things that people once relied on – money – institutions – governments – world leaders & politicians – influential people like celebrities or sports stars – a stable economy – are all letting us down
- All those things that we've made more important than God – that we've worshipped **as gods**
- Our property – our possessions – the things that brought us maybe popularity & prestige
- Are now in danger of being **devalued & depressed by an environment of fear**

- People who are commentating on the global economy & it's meltdown into recession
- Are using adjectives like – shock, concern, worry, loss, poor outlook, worrying forecast, disturbing patterns, afraid, fearful, & so on.
- People went to bed last week millionaires & woke up this week paupers
- Just yesterday – that guy – Packer – lost millions himself – as reported by the media

- There is a real sense in our world of fear & hopelessness
- In such a time as this, what do we as a church – as Christians – as citizens of a another Kingdom – as ambassadors of a different government - & representatives of a Higher King
- Have to offer to a world that is lost – depressed – disillusioned - oppressed – full of fear & on the brink of self-inflicted ruin?

- I think it's time that we as God's people – in the midst of hopelessness – **share the hope we have in Christ Jesus**
- It's time we make a move – like Jehoiada – to save!
- How did Jehoida make the move to save?
- What did he do?
- Let me suggest 4 things that he did – that we need to do – to participate with God in saving our generation...

Firstly, ...

1. MAKE The Decision To Act v1a

“Jehosheba, wife of Jehoiada the priest and sister of Ahaziah, hid the child so that Athaliah could not murder him. Joash remained hidden in the Temple of God for six years while Athaliah ruled over the land.” 2 Chron. 22:11b-12

- For 6 years Jehoiada hid the king
- Let me start family by saying this ...

- Many of us have done the Jehoiada!
- We’ve hidden the king!
- We know the solution to the problems our friends & family – our co-workers & neighbours -- are facing
- We know who can help them with their finances – with their work situation – with their marital situation – with the raising of their children
- We even sing the song sometimes “Jesus is the answer for the world today – above him there’s no other Jesus is the way”
- And yet we have hidden the answer away – we’ve hidden Jesus away!
- Some of you may have hidden the king for 6 months – some 6 years – others 16 years – even others 60 years!

- We know what can bring stability – peace - hope for a better future
- And yet we’ve hidden him away!

- And where have we hidden him?
- In the temple!
- In the church!
- We’ve visited the Solution – the Hope to a hopeless world -- every Sabbath in church
- But we’ve refused to take Him out of the church & into the world
- We’ve refused to share Him with those in our lives – in our daily travels – who walk around aimlessly – hopelessly – searching for something outside of themselves that can bring peace of mind & peace of heart!

“In the seventh year of Athaliah’s reign, Jehoiada the priest decided to act...” 2 Chron. 23:1a

- The 1st step in ACHIEVING something is to DECIDE to DO something
- **Every achievement in life – begins with a decision!**
- Someone once said “I think therefore I am”
- I say “I think therefore I **act**”
- Every action in life – always begins with the decision to act!
- Anyone who has ever achieved anything in life – started **thinking** that way **before he acted that way!**

- Jehoiada decided it was time to act
- He saw the pain & persecution of his people
- He saw their lostness in following after god's that were dead & didn't care
- He saw the fear & the oppression - the hopelessness
- And he decided ..."**it's time to act!!!**"
- Family ...Decide to act – decide today ... to make a difference
- Make a decision to do something about what you see around you!
- Now is the time to act!
- More than ever before – now is the time to bring Jesus out of the temple & into people's homes!

2. **MUSTER** up your courage v1b

"...He [Jehoiada] summoned his courage..." 2 Chron. 23:1b

- What are you afraid of?
- What is stopping you from stepping out in faith?
- **The courage to do something – comes only from conviction**
- The belief, the conviction that something needs to be done!
- No-one ever did something without first BELIEVING – having a conviction that it needed to be done!
- Courage comes from believing in 2 things:

1. Believing in God –

'...greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world" 1 John 4:4b KJV

- No matter what the enemy throws at you – no matter how discouraging the horizon looks
- No matter how people – who you know need Jesus – look at you with that look like "get out of my face before I punch your face"
- You have to believe that "greater is he that is in me than he that is in the world"
- Courage firstly comes from believing in God & secondly from ...

2. Believing in yourself –

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to *his power that is at work **within** us,...*" Eph 3:20 NIV

Bob Gass writes ...

“The God who lives within you is limited by one thing only: your inability or unwillingness to believe in yourself. The more you believe in yourself, the more you'll be able to accomplish. And if you keep **believing** and **expecting**, you'll someday find yourself **doing** what you once considered impossible.”

- God can do through you amazing things – but you have to be courageous enough to let Him do it!

Illus:

- For a long time in my life – the scariest thing for me – was sharing my faith in God – my belief in a higher power
- I was a closet Christian – a Christian under cover!
- I was literally a Seventh Day Adventist Christian –
- I was only an Adventist Christian on the seventh day!
- People at my work didn't know I was a Christian until I said something at one of my staff member's funerals
- 5 years I had worked in the same job – but I had Jesus Christ hidden in the temple!

- So what's changed in me?
- My belief in a God who loves – and my belief that He can work through me to achieve the impossible!

- How do you make the missional move to save?
- Make the decision ... Muster up your courage...and

3. **MOBILISE** God's plan v2-10

³ They all gathered at the Temple of God, where they made a solemn pact with Joash, the young king.

Jehoiada said to them, “Here is the king's son! The time has come for him to reign! The LORD has promised that a descendant of David will be our king. ⁴ This is what you must do. When you priests and Levites come on duty on the **Sabbath**, a **third** of you will serve as gatekeepers. ⁵ Another third will go over to the royal palace, and the final third will be at the Foundation Gate. Everyone else should stay in the courtyards of the LORD's Temple. Vv.3-5

- Jehoiada mobilised his plan to bring freedom from fear & oppression to his people
- He mobilised his plan to save his people

- God has a plan too!
- God has a plan to save us from the tyranny of a prince - hell bent on destroying our lives & removing us from our rightful place alongside our God!

Jesus Christ proclaimed “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; [but] I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” (Jn 10:10)

- Satan has declared war on that intention since the beginning of time
- His desire is to bring oppression & slavery in all its fullness to God’s children
- And he’s doing his best to accomplish it!

- But Satan is a loser!
- Why? Because in this room today are people who can make a difference in Sydney!

- God’s plan hasn’t changed since the beginning of time
- In Genesis he said to Adam & Eve Go - Multiply - Subdue the earth
- In Matthew he said to the disciples Go - Make disciples - of All nations
- In the first book of the Old Testament & in the first book of the New Testament God states His plan!
- In the thousands of years between Adam & Matthew – God’s plan never changed!

- Let me point out a couple of things in this passage ...

- 1. Jehoiada mobilises his plan on the Sabbath
- On the seventh day he moves to save his people
- Family, the seventh day is the perfect day to share the Saviour
- 2. He divides his team in 3 groups
- As a church, we need to intentionally head out in groups to save.
- Folks, the Sabbath is not just an opportunity for us to share lunch with each other
- It’s the best day for us to share our Saviour with the world.

- Each Sabbath we should be doing as Jesus did – when He walked the earth (Lk 10:1-24)
- Bringing the Kingdom of God to a lost people
- We should be visiting people who don’t know the Saviour – connecting with them & sharing with them the love of the Father & of Jesus Christ – praying for them – inviting them – loving them & accepting them

- This is our assignment!

- This is His plan that we are to mobilise!
- This is God’s plan for re-establishing peace – hope – faith in a better tomorrow & a greater eternity!

- Review ...
- Make the decision ... Muster up your courage...Mobilise His plan...and...

4. MAGNIFY His Kingdom

“Then Jehoiada and his sons brought out Joash, the king’s son, placed the crown on his head, and presented him with a copy of God’s laws.” 2 Chron. 23:11

- Jehoiada moved to save his people – how? By crowning the rightful king
- He knew that the only way to save Judah was to lift up the rightful king

- Family the only way to save your family & friends is for you to lift up the rightful king
- Jesus Christ said “if you would lift me up I will draw all men to me” (John 12:32)
- Who does the lifting? We do
- Who does the drawing of all men? He does
- Our job is simply to lift Him up – to raise Him up as King
- To crown Him King – in our homes – in our neighbourhoods – in our extended families – in our workplaces – in our schools
- Wherever we go – we need to lift Him up
- People need to know that Jesus is still King
- And that Jesus is STILL the only answer!

- It’s time set aside courtesies – it’s time to stop respecting people’s privacy & minding your own business – it’s time to come out of the closet with your Christianity & magnify His Kingdom

Illus: 6 Million Dollar Man

One of my favourite TV programs I used to watch as a kid – was the 6 million dollar man – the bionic man

I used to love the scenes where the 6 million dollar man would gear up to save someone

And suddenly everything would go into slow motion - & there’d be that sound as the 6 million dollar man’s body went into top gear

It was great watching everything in slow motion as he would for example – race towards a car out of control & heading over the cliff & rescue

If you saw a person who was heading over a cliff & you had the ability to save him from near death

What would you do?

Bottom-line

- The world is heading over a cliff fast!
- Your friends your family workmates schoolmates neighbours are heading over the cliff fast

- What are you doing about it?

- We're teetering on the edge of eternity
- We are in the last days of this earth
- We must move from being members of a church to being missional disciples of a movement

- God isn't interested in retaining a membership
- He's interested in reviving & releasing a movement of missional disciples
- What are missional disciples?
- They are followers of Christ who will follow Christ into the mission field.
- They are people who refuse to leave it up to an organisation or an institution to do the work of making disciples
- But who will gladly step into the missional work – boots and all! – to reclaim a generation for His Kingdom!

- You are that missional disciple
- You are Jehoiada for your generation
- It's time to let the cat out of the bag
- It's time to let Jesus Christ & His Kingdom out of the church & into the homes –
- Into the hearts of a lost generation!
- It's time to get out of the pews & onto the pavements
- It's time to step out of your comfort zone & into God's faith zone
- It's time to move
- It's time to make a missional move to join Jesus Christ in the mission field
- It's time to make a missional move to save!

PEER TO PEER REFLECTION

1. Who do you know who you need to make a missional move on to save?
2. What will your missional move be in the next 2 weeks?
3. Set a date & time to make your missional move