

2 Kings 21:3

For he rebuilt the high places which Hezekiah his father had destroyed; he raised up altars for Baal, and made a wooden image, as Ahab king of Israel had done; and he worshiped all the host of heaven and served them.

Have you ever looked at a kid, or a teenager, or a young adult and thought, “Wow, I bet they were not raised in a good Christian home.” And some times that’s true, but then sometimes it’s not true. Looking at today’s verses, this was after Manasseh’s dad, King Hezekiah had died and Manasseh, his son, was made king in his place. And by reading today’s verse, you could tell right away that he was not a godly king. So who was Manasseh’s dad, King Hezekiah anyway?

† **2 Kings 18:1-3** *Now it came to pass in the third year of Hoshea the son of Elah, king of Israel, that Hezekiah the son of Ahaz, king of Judah, began to reign. He was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Abi the daughter of Zechariah. And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father David had done.*

As you read about the different kings who ruled over Israel and Judah, we read of both those who are good kings, meaning they followed the Lord, like king Hezekiah, and those who are evil kings, who followed after the false gods and rejected the Lord, like king Manasseh. (*One side note, there was never a good king in Israel after King David died, they were all evil, only in Judah was there both good and evil kings*) Well, Hezekiah was one of those good ones, and not just a normal good one but it says that “**he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father David had done.**” Because some just followed the Lord a little, but some followed the Lord wholeheartedly like King David did, and King Hezekiah was one who did as well.

But even though King Hezekiah was a godly king, and probably raised his kids to be godly as well, we read in today’s verse that after he died and his son Manasseh became king that Manasseh “**rebuilt the high places which Hezekiah his father had destroyed; he raised up altars for Baal, and made a wooden image, as Ahab king of Israel had done; and he worshiped all the host of heaven and served them.**”

Even king Manasseh’s son, Amon (King Hezekiah’s grandson) followed his after his dad, King Manasseh and did evil as well.

† **2 Kings 21:19-22** *Amon was twenty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned two years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Meshullemeth the daughter of Haruz of Jotbah. And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, as his father Manasseh had done. So he walked in all the ways that his father had walked; and he served the idols that his father had served, and worshiped them. He forsook the LORD God of his fathers, and did not walk in the way of the LORD.*

When you read these things you may think, “*Oh no, all is lost, Judah will not have a godly king ever again.*” But even though King Amon was evil, his son, Josiah, did not follow in his dad’s footsteps. But instead, “*Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem. His mother’s name was Jedidah the daughter of Adaiah of Bozkath. And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in all the ways of his father David; he did not turn aside to the right hand or to the left.*” 2 Kings 22:1-2

King Josiah followed in his great grandfather’s footsteps as we read that “*he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in all the ways of his father David; he did not turn aside to the right hand or to the left*”

This shows us that even if someone is raised in a good godly home by godly parents, or even by a single godly parent, they don’t always follow the ways of the Lord like their parents did. It also shows that even though they may have ungodly parents, they can still choose to follow the Lord, unlike their parents. Everyone is responsible for their own walk with the Lord. So the excuse of, my parents were not godly, is not an excuse for you or your kids not to be godly, just as we saw with these kings who had godly and ungodly dads. They each chose their own way and walked with, or without the Lord in their lives. The final choice is up to each one of us, no matter how we were brought up.

But one thing to note, and that is that a home with godly parents, has a higher rate of raising godly kids, who will in turn raise godly kids as well. Maybe you were not raised in a godly home. Change that and make your home a godly home, and raise your kids in a godly manner, according to God’s word.

† **Philippians 2:12-13** *Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.*

† **Proverbs 22:6** *Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.*