

Life Lesson 77
Abijah – The Prince Who Loved God
Text: I Kings 14: 1-14

Introduction

Prince Abijah lay on his bed, too sick to get up and play. Since he was the son of King Jeroboam of Israel, he had the best doctors and the best care, but nothing helped.

His father paced the floor and his mother cried. The dreadful fear grew in their hearts as each day Abijah got worse. Would he get well? Would he die?

The Story

Abijah didn't come from a godly family. God blessed his father, Jeroboam, with the special job of being king over God's people. You would think he would be grateful and rule the people in the right way – but that didn't happen. Instead, Jeroboam started worshiping idols and encouraging the people to do bad things.

Was that an excuse for Abijah to be wicked, too? After all, he didn't have a father who would teach him to do right.

No, the Bible says, "Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure and whether it be right." (Proverbs 20:11)

Maybe your parents are Christians who love God and are doing their best to teach you the right way to live. Maybe your parents don't know God and you have no one who cares if you live for Him or not.

But, whatever kind of parents you have, your relationship with God is your business. Your parents can't make you right with God and they can't keep you from God. You have to meet God on your own.

The Bible tells us that in Abijah was found "some good thing."

Does that mean Abijah was an extra-good person? If you are good enough, will God be happy with you?

No, the Bible tells us that none of us are good enough for God.

Romans 3:23 says, “For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.” That means all of us have “missed the mark.” No one is good enough for God. Even our very best is like dirty rags before God. (Isaiah 64:6)

Abijah wasn’t good enough, either.

The “some good thing” he had in him -- was God. Abijah believed God. He trusted that God would send a savior some day to pay for his sins.

Abijah was just a child in a nation that had forgotten God, but God saw his heart. Even though he was only a sick little boy, God used him to give a message to his wicked father.

“The prophet Ahijah is in Shiloh,” Jeroboam said to his wife. “Maybe he can tell us what will happen to our child. He wouldn’t do it if he knew who we were, though. You’ll have to disguise yourself so he won’t know you are my wife. Take an offering to him and ask him what we should do for the boy, and if he will live.”

That was silly! A prophet only knew what God told him. Jeroboam thought he could trick God.

Jeroboam’s wife put on a disguise as her husband had told her to do, and went to Shiloh.

Do you think God was fooled? No, of course not. He told Ahijah that Mrs. Jeroboam was on the way, and He gave Ahijah a message for her.

“Come in, Queen,” the prophet greeted her. “I have a message for your husband from God. Tell him that God is angry. He lifted Jeroboam up and caused him to be a prince among God’s people. Yet, Jeroboam refused to obey God and turned to idols.

“Because of Jeroboam’s sin, the kingdom will be taken away from his family. Jeroboam and his sons shall all die terrible deaths. They won’t even have the honor of a proper burial. The dogs will eat the ones who die in the city and the birds will eat the dead bodies of the ones who die in battle.

“Only the child, Abijah, who is now ill will be buried and mourned. He will die the moment you set your feet inside the city limits. He alone will escape a dishonorable death, because he alone has a love for the true God.”

What a sad message for a mother to take home! Not only would her sick son die, but now she knew all her sons and grandsons would die shameful deaths.

Just as God said, Abijah died when his mother came into the city. That was sad, but we know that he went to be with the Lord in Heaven. He had a funeral and everyone in the nation mourned for him.

Even though he was just a small boy, he had a testimony, that “in him was found some good thing toward the Lord God of Israel.”

The Life Lesson

If you were to die today as Abijah did, what would God find in your heart?

Children don't think they will die. Most people die when they are old. But, things happen, even to children. It's foolish to say, “I'll think about being saved when I'm older.” We all ought to be ready every day to meet God.

Review Questions

What was the name of King Jeroboam's son?

Abijah

Was King Jeroboam a godly king?

No

Was Abijah a "good" boy?

No, but God something "good" in him -- he believed God.

What happened to Abijah?

He became very sick.

What was King Jeroboam's plan?

His wife was to dress in a disguise and go to the prophet Ahijah and ask what to do for their sick son.

Did they fool God?

No.

What message did Ahijah give the queen?

Because of Jeroboam's sin, the rule would be taken away from Jeroboam's family. Everyone in the family would have a shameful death and not be mourned, except for Abijah. The prince would die when his mother came back into the city.

Did God's word come true?

Yes, God always does what He says.