Asa: Stumbling At The Finish Line

Tony Mauck · 2 Chronicles 16

INTRODUCTION

- I think this is one of the neglected characters of the Old Testament, and one that we can learn a great deal from if we knew more about him.
- Then Asa called to the Lord his God and said, Lord, there is no one besides thee to help in the battle between the powerful and those who have no strength.
- For the eyes of the Lord move to and fro throughout the earth, that he may strongly support those whose hearts are completely his. But you have acted foolishly.

1 Asa's Story Is One of Unrealized Potential

Hebrews 11:32

- Asa's story, sadly, is one of unrealized potential.
- Here was a man who was on the cusp of spiritual greatness.
- Whenever a person stumbles at the finish line, whenever a person walks away from the Lord, whenever their lives go into spiritual decline, it is always a case of unrealized potential.
- Oh, what more could have been accomplished if Asa had continued to rely upon the Lord as he had evidenced in the early portion of his reign?

2 The Steps That Led to His Stumbling

Psalm 118:8; Psalm 73; Galatians 6:7–9

- This stumbling by Asa at the finish line was no accident. There were some very real steps that led to his tragic stumble.
- Trust, the absence of trust, is always the problem.
- It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes. Asa put his trust in Ben Hadad rather than the Lord.
- With a failure to trust, what inevitably follows is a failure in godliness. As trust wanes, godliness diminishes also.
- People grow weary and faint when they start sowing to the flesh rather than sowing to the spirit.
- Without God, he was just a man. An impotent mortal, a dying sinner. His kingdom had not flourished because of him, but because God was with him.

3 The Unsung Hero of the Asa Story

2 Chronicles 16:7–10

- Do you know how hard it is to have to come to the most powerful man of Judah and say you're doing wrong?

- The important thing is we deliver the message that people need to hear. Regardless of the consequences.

4 How Close the Finish Line Really Was

Romans 13:11

- Thirty-five years of success and peace. And now in the final short six years of his life, it all unravels.
- Did he have any idea how close the finish line really was?
- Our salvation is nearer to us than when we believed.
- Some boast in chariots and some in horses. But we will boast in the name of the Lord our God.

5 The Faithful Need to Be Determined to the End

- If you look back at a church directory from just five years ago, you will see the names of people who are no longer serving the Lord.
- The finish line, while it may seem to be a long way away, was a lot closer than Asa ever dreamed it was. And it may be a lot closer for you than you think it is.
- Grit is not something that some people are born with and others are not. It's a matter of choice on the part of every person.

THE CHALLENGE

Are you determined to see God? Seek the Lord. Trust the Lord. Adore the Lord. Serve the Lord.

MY NOTES