

**UZZIAH – IF YOU THINK YOU ARE STRONG...**

**2 Chronicles 25:26-26:23**

January 17, 2010

**3 traps which lead to pride, which leads to destruction:**

1. The 1<sup>st</sup> trap: Prosperity / Success (vv 4-5)

**What is success?**

Websters: achieving a favorable or desired outcome;

The pleasure of pride is like the pleasure of scratching. If there is an itch, one does want to scratch. C. S. Lewis

**Footnotes about success:**

God has not called us to be successful. He has called us to be faithful.

A great many people go through life in bondage to success. They are in mortal dread of failure. I do not have to succeed. I have only to be true to the highest I know—success or failure are in the hands of God. E. Stanley Jones

He has achieved success who has lived well, laughed often, and loved much. Bessie Anderson Stanley

Better to love God and die unknown than to love the world and be a hero; better to be content with poverty than to die a slave to wealth; better to have taken some risks and lost than to have done nothing and succeeded at it; better to have lost some battles than to have retreated from the war; better to have failed when serving God than to have succeeded when serving the devil. What a tragedy to climb the ladder of success, only to discover that the ladder was leaning against the wrong wall! Erwin W. Lutzer

2. The 2<sup>nd</sup> trap: Press Clippings. (vv. 15b-16)

Ps. 127:1 (NIV) – Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain.

What other people think of me is becoming less and less important; what they think of Jesus because of me is critical. Cliff Richards

3. The 3<sup>rd</sup> trap: Position. (vv. 16-20)

(Lk. 9:23-24)

What a sad epitaph. All of the wonderful things Uzziah did. All of his prosperity. All of his fame and popularity. His honored and exalted position. All of 52 years of called out leadership over God's chosen people. All of that, boiled down to three words—He had leprosy. One of the most powerful kings in Judah's history. Ranked right up there with David and Solomon. And remembered for a disgusting, foul disease. I can picture a field next to the caves where the kings of Judah are buried. Outside of the royal cemetery. One lonely marker. A marker that simply reads—Uzziah, leper. (Baptist Pastor, Jim Drake)

2 Timothy 4:6-8 (NCV) – My life is being given as an offering to God, and the time has come for me to leave this life. <sup>7</sup>I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. <sup>8</sup>Now, a crown is being held for me—a crown for being right with God. The Lord, the judge who judges rightly, will give the crown to me on that day —not only to me but to all those who have waited with love for him to come again.

A Truth to Remember: All success is defined, determined & accomplished by the grace of God. So all glory belongs to HIM, no matter what the results.

A Challenge to Consider: Are you willing to give **God** the glory when He grants you *success*... or even when you are faced with apparent failure?

One thing I heard this morning was...

**Next Wk: HEZEKIAH – FEAR, FAITH & DELIVERANCE** (2 Chronicles 32:1-23)