

# Sermon Reflections

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*Asa: A Promising Start, but a Disappointing Finish* (2 Chronicles 14-16)

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**Summary: Rely on the Lord and You Will Finish Well**

## **1. Starting well by trusting the LORD amidst great pressure (Chapter 14)**

- The start of Asa's reign was marked by trust in the LORD. That trust is seen in Asa's actions (14:2-5) and his words (14:11). When the difficulty arose in Asa's reign, he responded based on his trust in the LORD and the Lord blessed Asa and the land with rest/peace.
- List a time or times of difficulty in your life when you trusted God and had a sense of peace in spite of the ongoing challenge.

## **2. Continuing well by taking courage in the LORD (Chapter 15)**

- Asa's trust in the LORD and his associated actions impacted people outside of Judah. Many from Ephraim, Manasseh, and Simeon came to Judah because of Asa's trust in the Lord and the Lord's blessings on Judah.
- Can you identify situations where your faith has encouraged others to seek the Lord? Ask the Lord to help you be faithful where you are so that others will be encouraged. Ask the Lord for opportunities to share Christ and for the strength to act.

## **3. The results of finishing poorly (Chapter 16)**

- Asa initially sought the Lord. He brought silver and gold into the LORD's house in gratitude and worship. But Asa later trusted in himself and his own wisdom rather than God. He took that which was the Lord's and used it to buy support from the king of Syria. As a result, Asa achieved a short-term reprieve but missed the longer-term peace and rest which the Lord would have provided. Can you think of situations where you have trusted your own wisdom over seeking God's assistance? Ask the Lord to strengthen you to trust Him and act on that trust.
- Hanani rebuked Asa because he relied on the king of Syria and not on the Lord his God. Asa responded in anger to Hanani's rebuke. Not even disease could bring Asa to seek the Lord. What does your response in times of correction indicate about your heart? Do you view life's difficulties as opportunities to demonstrate your trust in a sovereign God or as inconveniences to your plans?
- How does your response in difficult times reveal your trust? Who or what do you rely on in difficult times? How do your words and actions reveal where you place your hope? Ask the Lord to help you trust Him more.