



King Asa in Wisconsin's Northwoods
(Selections from 2 Chronicles 14-15)

God's Still Small Voice

- “Keep on Working” (Paris)
- “But you, take courage! Do Not let your hands be weak, **for your work shall be rewarded**” (15:7) (Northern Wisconsin)

Historical Context

- **14 Abijah** [ruler of Judah 913-911 B.C.] slept with his fathers, and they buried him in the city of David. And **Asa** his son reigned in his place [ruled 911-870 B.C.]. In his days the land had rest for ten years.

Asa Wastes No Time in Serving the Lord

- And Asa did what was good and right in the eyes of the LORD his God. He took away the foreign altars and the high places and broke down the pillars and cut down the Asherim and **commanded Judah to seek the Lord, the God of their fathers, and to keep the law and the commandment.** He also took out of all the cities of Judah the high places and the incense altars. And the kingdom had rest under him.

--2 Chronicles 14:2-5

I. God's Guarantees

A. God's Call is Clear

- The Spirit of God came upon Azariah the son of Oded, ² and he went out to meet Asa and said to him, “**Hear me, Asa,** and all Judah and Benjamin” (2 Chronicles 15:1-2a)
- “**Hear, O Israel:** The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵ You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.” (The Shema, Deuteronomy 6:4-5)

I. God's Guarantees

B. God is Accessible

- **“The LORD is with you while you are with him. If you seek him, he will be found by you”** (2 Chronicles 15:2b)
- But when in their distress they turned to the Lord, the God of Israel, and sought him, he was found by them (15:4)

“You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.”

--Jeremiah 29:13

I. God's Guarantees

Chaos Exists Away from God

- **“but if you forsake him, he will forsake you” (15:2c)**
- For a long time Israel was without the true God, and without a teaching priest and without law.” (15:3)
- In those times there was no peace to him who went out or to him who came in, for great disturbances afflicted all the inhabitants of the lands. (15:5)
- They were broken in pieces. Nation was crushed by nation and city by city, for God troubled them with every sort of distress (15:6)
- **People Need Guardrails**

I. God's Guarantees

D. God Rewards the Diligent

- **“But you, take courage! Do Not let your hands be weak, for your work shall be rewarded” (15:7)**
- Whether times are good or times are tough, make God your first priority.
- Even when in doubt of the results, continue to do the Lord's work

II. Do Not Be Tempted by Empty Idols

- ⁸ As soon as Asa heard these words, the prophecy of Azariah the son of Oded, he took courage and **put away the detestable idols** from all the land of Judah and Benjamin and from the cities that he had taken in the hill country of Ephraim, and he repaired the altar of the LORD that was in front of the vestibule of the house of the LORD.

--2 Chronicles 15:8

II. Do Not Be Tempted by Empty Idols (15:8)

A. Materialism and “Affluenza”

- The weeds in the Parable of the Soils (Mark 4:7, 18-19)
- ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain.
- ¹⁸ And others are the ones sown among thorns. They are those who hear the word, ¹⁹ but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.

II. Do Not Be Tempted by Empty Idols (15:8)

B. Greed and Envy (and Revenge)

- A little more is never enough
- “Put to death therefore what is earthly in you . . . [including] covetousness, which is idolatry” (Colossians 3:5)

II. Do Not Be Tempted by Empty Idols (15:8)

C. Digital Technology and Endless Entertainment

- Be careful: “Garbage In, Garbage Out”
- “I will walk with integrity of heart
within my house;
I will not set before my eyes
anything that is worthless.” (Psalm 101:2b-3a)

II. Do Not Be Tempted by Empty Idols (15:8)

D. Easy Spirituality

- ⁵ And the man Micah had a shrine, and he made an ephod and household gods, and ordained^[a] one of his sons, who became his priest. ⁶ In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes. (Judges 17:6)
- A common “god” today: plugging into a non-personal “life force” that requires no accountability. (Example: “I am sending positive thoughts and energy your way.”)

III. Blessings to Those Who Seek the Lord

- A. The Attractiveness of Righteousness (15:9)
- B. The Invigoration of Commitment (15:12-15a)
- C. The Joy of Being in God's Presence (15:15b)
- D. The Peace Beyond Understanding (15:15c)

III. Blessings to Those Who Seek the Lord

A. The Attractiveness of Righteousness

- ⁹ And he gathered all Judah and Benjamin, and those from Ephraim, Manasseh, and Simeon who were residing with them, for great numbers had deserted to him from Israel when they saw that the LORD his God was with him. . . (15:9)

III. Blessings to Those Who Seek the Lord

B. The Invigoration of Commitment

- And **they entered into a covenant to seek the LORD**, the God of their fathers, with all their heart and with all their soul . . . They swore an oath to the LORD with a loud voice and with shouting and with trumpets and with horns. And all Judah rejoiced over the oath, for they had sworn with all their heart and had sought him with their whole desire” (15:12, 14-15a)

III. Blessings to Those Who Seek the Lord

C. The Joy of Being in God's Presence

- **“and he was found by them” (15:15b)**

III. Blessings to Those Who Seek the Lord

D. The Peace Beyond Understanding

- “and the LORD gave them rest all around.” (15:15c)

Let Us Pray

