

EVERYBODY ELSE IS DOING IT

JEHOSHAPHAT

2 CHRONICLES 17:4

Day 13

King Jehoshaphat did not act like all Israel did. In other words, he did not do things because everyone else was doing them. It brings back memories of asking our parents for permission to do something a little off the wall; when we got a "no", we said, "But all the kids are doing it."

Let's get personal here. Maybe the things people do are not horribly evil. Do you smoke because the guys you hang with smoke? How about your language? Do you slip in a few well-used jewels of profanity to spice up your masculinity? Do you gamble in some way? Have you criticized the pastor of your church behind his back? Do you steal things out of the library or from the workplace? Do you have beer or wine in the refrigerator for "cooking"? Do you glance at pornographic pictures in a magazine or on the internet? Do your eyes spend a little too much time scanning the female underwear ad in the paper or on TV? What about jokes? Do you enjoy the "off-color" ones, and then tell them to other groups later?

You might say, "What do you think I am – some old sinner? Of course, I don't do those things?"

Are you jealous when someone gets something you wanted? Do you gossip about other brothers? Do you skip church too much because of all the sporting events on TV? Do you use your anger to hurt people when you want to get your own way? When is the last time you gathered with some guys to have a prayer meeting on a day besides Sunday? Do you skip reading the Bible several days a week? Have you lustfully looked at that female staff member or that female in the choir?

What is the problem? Everybody is doing it! We need not get worked up about any of these deficiencies. However, sometime, we must stand alone & please God for a change. King Jehoshaphat stood alone so God made his life count; he led a nation & God's control was with him.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. What is the point of this meditation? What message did you receive & what action do you plan?
2. What are you saying to God when you refuse to do the many things listed in this meditation?

A PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

What do you need to say to God as you face the topic being discussed in this devotional? Write out your prayer word for word just as if you were praying. Use separate lined paper to record your prayer. Make sure you actually pray this prayer to the Lord. Be honest & be personal. After all, you mean business with God here. You want this area of your life either fixed, strengthened, added, or removed.