WHEN RELIGION STOPS SHORT OF REPENTANCE

2 KINGS 3:1-3, 9:21-24 (ESV)

Some reminders for reading the historical books:

- During the reign of Solomon's son, Israel fractured into two nations: Israel (North) and Judah (South).
- Israel's capital was Samaria; Judah's capital was Jerusalem (location of the Temple).
- Israel (North) was consistently led by bad kings. Judah (South) was usually ruled by heirs of David who varied in their faithfulness.
- While 1-2 Kings tells the broader story of the Divided Kingdom, 1-2 Chronicles (written later) focuses on David's family, Judah (South), and the Temple.
- One specific point of confusion in our current readings is that both nations had kings named Jehoram (Joram, for short).

I. The life of Joram, son of Ahab, gives a profile of an "unrepentant religious" person.

The "unrepentant religious" person...

A. Occasionally _____ and _____ religious things / 2 Kings 3:2, 6:21, 6:30, 8:4-6.

B. Has blatant, _____ sin with little _____ for it.

C. Consistently _____ to a baseline of _____ speech and action / 2 Kings 3:10, 6:21, 6:31, 7:12.

D. While Scripture gives examples of this type of person _____, often they do not (Joram being an example of the latter).

II. Since we don't know who is _____ or _____, we should approach people like Joram with humility, realism, and hope.

A. Humility: You have sin too. So beware your own _____ and _____.

B. Realism: Be realistic. Many _____ don't _____.

C. Hope: God can _____ anyone, so don't count anyone _____.

III. The "unrepentant religious" person needs to see God's _____, trust God's _____, and _____.

The "unrepentant religious" person needs someone...

A. To show them how _____ and _____ God has been to them / 2 Kings 6:8-10.

B. To encourage them to go beyond interest, curiosity, or religiosity to a real, meaningful _____ with God's Word that leads to _____.

C. To graciously explain that true Christianity means _____ Jesus in a state of humble _____.