

Story: Manasseh

Theme: Repentance and God's Forgiveness

Text: 2 Chronicles 33: 1 - 20

Approximate Story Time: 4-5 minutes

Discussion Questions: 2

PBA Questions from Story: 8

Total PBA Questions: 20

Manasseh

Manasseh was one baaaad king. Not baaaad as in good; baaaad as in nasty, horrid, wicked, evil, perverse, reprehensible, immoral, unrighteous, corrupt, vile, sinful, unholy, heinous, depraved, unpleasant, noxious, offensive, putrid, and iniquitous. He was one baaaad fella. His grandfather, Ahaz had been pretty bad also, but Manasseh's dad, Hezekiah, was good and followed God faithfully, so I don't know why Manasseh turned out so bad, but he did. 2 Chronicles 33 says "he did evil in the sight of the LORD, according to the abominations of the nations whom the LORD had cast out before the children of Israel." It says Manasseh

- Rebuilt the high places which Hezekiah his father had broken down
- Raised up altars for the Baals
- Made wooden images
- Worshipped and served all the host of heaven
- Built altars (to other gods) in the house of the LORD
- He caused his son to pass through the fire in the valley of the Son of Hinnom
- He practiced soothsaying
- He used witchcraft and sorcery
- He consulted mediums and spiritists
- He seduced Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to do more evil than the nations whom the LORD had destroyed before the children of Israel
- He even set a carved image, an idol he had made, in the house of God

Manasseh was bad, very bad. 2 Chronicles says "He did much evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke Him to anger". Not only that, Manasseh encouraged all Judah and all the people in Jerusalem to do evil.

God tried to talk to Manasseh and the people, but they wouldn't listen. Manasseh and his people seemed to take pride in disobeying God and doing all the things they knew God had warned His people against. They even tried to think up new ways to do evil. In 2 Kings 21:16 it says Manasseh shed so much innocent blood he filled Jerusalem from one end to the other. The man who was supposed to be a servant of the people and reign with justice to help the people, instead took pride in killing anyone and everyone that his whims told him he could get away with, and it seemed he could get away with anything he wanted. I'm sure that any people who were still faithful to God probably had a hard time not thinking Manasseh was hopeless.

But, as amazing as it sounds, God saw a little shred of something good in the soul of Manasseh. When God decided the time was right, he helped Manasseh see the error of his ways and amend his attitude. He used a method Manasseh probably didn't appreciate at the time. God brought captains of the army of the king of Assyria upon Judah. The Assyrians took Manasseh with hooks (the footnote says **nose** hooks), bound him with bronze fetters, and carried him to Babylon. Manasseh went from a life of doing what he wanted, to being in a big hurt. He was in affliction, and something happened that may surprise you; Manasseh "implored the LORD his God, and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers, and prayed" to God and God received his entreaty and heard his supplication and God brought Manasseh back to Jerusalem and established him as king again.

Let me tell you, Manasseh was a changed man. He knew the LORD was GOD. It wasn't just something he believed; he **knew** that the LORD was God. Now Manasseh had a personal relationship with God and his life showed the change. Manasseh

- Took away the foreign gods and the idol from the house of the LORD
- He took away all the altars he had built in the mount of the house of the LORD and in Jerusalem

- He repaired the altar of the LORD
- He sacrificed peace offerings and thank offerings on the repaired altar
- He commanded Judah to serve the LORD God of Israel

Manasseh was faithful to God the rest of his life. And while it is sad that he was so bad to begin his life, it shows us that no matter how much evil we do, God is more than willing to turn our hearts to Him. Let each of us resolve to obey God every day and let Jesus live in us.

Discussion Questions:

1. Do you think Manasseh thought he was happy when he was doing wrong?
 - a. How do you feel when you do things you know to be wrong?
 - b. Even if some of the wrong things you do seem like fun when you do them, are there usually consequences later?
2. Can people tell if you love God?
 - a. What did Manasseh do when he changed?
 - b. What will your life be like when you let God change you and you love God?
 - c. Can others see God in your life? What do they see? [Fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23)]
 - i. Love
 - ii. Joy
 - iii. Peace
 - iv. Longsuffering (patience)
 - v. Kindness
 - vi. Goodness
 - vii. Faithfulness
 - viii. Gentleness
 - ix. Self-control

PBA Questions: (Do as many as there is time for, at least one or two.) (The first 8 can be answered from the above story, more or less.)

1. True or False. According to 2 Chronicles 33:2, Manasseh did what was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father David had done?

ANS: False (he did evil in the sight of the LORD, according to the abominations of the nations whom the LORD had cast out before the children of Israel)

2. 3 points. According to 2 Chronicles 33:13, what was God's response to Manasseh's prayer?

ANS: He received his entreaty, heard his supplication, and brought him back to Jerusalem into his kingdom.

3. According to 2 Chronicles 33:10, what did Manasseh and the people do when the LORD spoke to them?

ANS: they would not listen

4. 3 points. According to 2 Chronicles 33:11, what did the captains of the army of the king of Assyria do with Manasseh?

ANS: took him with hooks, bound him with bronze fetters, and carried him off to Babylon

5. 4 points. According to 2 Chronicles 33:6, what specific things are mentioned that Manasseh did that provoked the LORD to anger?

ANS: he caused his sons to pass through the fire in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom; he practiced soothsaying, used witchcraft and sorcery, and consulted mediums and spiritists

6. 2 points. According to 2 Chronicles 33:9, who did Manasseh seduce to do more evil than the nations whom the LORD had destroyed before the children of Israel?

ANS: Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem

7. 2 points. According to 2 Chronicles 33:16, what did Manasseh do with the altar of the LORD after he repented?

ANS: he repaired it and sacrificed peace offerings and thank offerings on it

8. 3 points. According to 2 Chronicles 33:12-13, what did Manasseh do when he was in affliction in Babylon?

ANS: implored the LORD his God, humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers, and prayed to Him

9. 2 points. According to 2 Chronicles 33:1, how old was Manasseh when he became king and how long did he reign?

ANS: 12 years old and reigned 55 years

10. 4 points. According to 2 Chronicles 33:2-3, Manasseh did what four things that showed he did evil in the sight of the LORD?

ANS: he **rebuilt the high places** which Hezekiah his father had broken down; he **raised up altars for the Baals**, and **made wooden images**; and he **worshiped all the host of heaven and served them**

11. According to 2 Chronicles 33:4-5, where did Manasseh build altars for all the host of heaven? Be specific.

ANS: in the two courts of the house of the LORD

12. According to 2 Chronicles 33:5, who said, "In Jerusalem shall My name be forever"?

ANS: the LORD

13. According to 2 Chronicles 33:20, where was Manasseh buried?

ANS: in his own house

14. According to 2 Chronicles 33:7, what did Manasseh set in the house of God?

ANS: a carved image, the idol which he had made

15. According to 2 Chronicles 33:18-19, Manasseh's prayer and how God received his entreaty, and all his sin and trespass, and the sites where he built high places and set up wooden images and carved images, before he was humbled, are written where?

ANS: among the sayings of Hozai

16. 3 points. According to 2 Chronicles 33:8, God promised to not remove Israel from the land He appointed their fathers if they were careful to do all that He commanded them according to what?

ANS: according to the whole law and the statutes and the ordinances by the hand of Moses

17. According to 2 Chronicles 33:18, in what book were the rest of the acts of Manasseh

written?

ANS: in the book of the kings of Israel

18. According to 2 Chronicles 33:17, after Manasseh repented and took away the foreign gods, the people still sacrificed on the high places, but only to whom?

ANS: only to the LORD their God

19. 4 points. According to 2 Chronicles 33:15, what did Manasseh take away from the house of the LORD and Jerusalem and cast out of the city?

ANS: the foreign gods and the idol from the house of the LORD, and all the altars that he had built in the mount of the house of the LORD and in Jerusalem

20. 2 points. According to 2 Chronicles 33:14, Manasseh built a wall outside the city of David on the west side of Gihon as far as the entrance of which gate, and enclosing what?

ANS: as far as the Fish Gate, it enclosed Ophel