

Bible Study – June 20, 2018

“When It’s Time To Make A Change”

UNSUNG: Major Lessons from ‘Minor’ People – Pt. 5

Character Study: King Josiah

SCRIPTURE: **2 Kings 22 & 23: 1-24**

Background

Out of the twenty rulers of Judah, including wicked Queen Athaliah, only eight of them could be called "good": Asa, Jehoshaphat, Joash, Amaziah, Uzziah, Jotham, Hezekiah and **Josiah**.

Josiah ruled for thirty-one years (640-609) and walked in the ways of the Lord because David was his model. When Josiah came to power, things in Judah were very bad. Judah was weakened politically, economically, and spiritually. Josiah is known as being one of the great reformers of Judah who turned things around. To get a handle on the political scene in Josiah’s day, go back hundreds of years before Josiah to the death of Solomon, which marked the beginning of a fractured and divided Israel; a civil war would soon break out, dividing the nation between the northern Kingdom of Israel and the southern Kingdom of Judah.

By the time Josiah came to the throne of Judah, the Northern Kingdom of Israel was no more. Eighty years (80) before Josiah, the northern kingdom’s continued rebellion against God and their idolatry caused God to allow the Assyrian army to defeat them. In the 8 decades that followed the FALL OF THE NORTHERN KINGDOM, Judah drifted further away from the Lord, and was weakened militarily. The prophetic preaching of MICAH– ZEPHANIAH – JEREMIAH – HABAKKUK - all took place in Judah during this time, each of them warning of impending judgment unless there was repentance. But their cries fell on deaf ears.

So, when Josiah inherits the throne at the age of eight (8) political anarchy and spiritual idolatry were rampant. Josiah’s grandfather Manasseh, who ruled for 55 years in Judah, led to rebellion against God in favor of paganism and idolatry. He also shed so much innocent blood that Jerusalem was filled with blood from one end to another. He was a vile king. Josiah’s father, Amon, was not much better. Although, he only reigned for about two (2) years he followed in Manasseh’s footsteps and was assassinated in the second year of his reign by palace servants. The political, cultural, and moral legacy handed to Josiah was the absolute worse one could imagine, and yet he sought to turn things around in his life and in his nation at a very early age. Josiah shows us that no matter how bad things have been in our lives, we can make a change.

Josiah gives us a model on how we can make change in our lives:

(Principle #1) Find the _____ Within You (2 Kings 22: 1-7)

- Josiah made a decision to change things morally and spiritually. It was an act of his will.

(Principle #2) Get Back to the _____ (2 Kings 22: 10 – 2 Kings 23: 2)

- He _____ to hear the Word (2 Kings 22: 10-11a). Be open to learn some new things related to your area of change.
- He was _____ by the Word. He repented "rent his clothes" (2 Kings 22: 11b)
- He _____ to the Word (2 Kings 22: 12 – 2 Kings 23:2)

(Principle #3) Renew Your Commitment to _____ (2 Kings 23: 3 – 24)

- Josiah renewed Judah's covenant with God (2 Kings 23:3)
- Josiah removed the pagan idols (2 Kings 23: 3-7, 11-19)
- Josiah renewed Passover, commemorating what God had done in their past (2 Kings 23: 21-23)

(Principle #4) Change the _____ (i.e. "the People," "the Environment") Around You (2 Kings 23: 8-10, 20, 24)

- Josiah cleansed Jerusalem of certain pagan priests and parts of town ('Topheth') that could not be redeemed

Questions for Discussion:

NOTES:
