

Josiah: A Heart Determined to Follow God

November 24, 2019



Open: Share about a time you found something that had been missing for a long time.

Read & Discuss: 2 Chronicles 34:19-21

1. After first hearing the words of the Old Testament Law, which had been lost for some time, how does Josiah respond? How did you respond the first time you heard the Gospel?
2. In these verses, how do you see Josiah demonstrate concern for others? How did your early knowledge of God result in you expressing concern for the spiritual well-being of others?

Read & Discuss: 2 Chronicles 34:22-28

3. What do verses 24-25 reveal about what God hates? Why would these things be so offensive to God that they would justify such a serious consequence?
4. From verses 26-27, what sort of heart is God looking for in us? Where else in Scripture does God express that He desires this in us? Why would this be so important to Him?
5. The condition of Josiah's heart was demonstrated in tearing his clothes and weeping (v. 27). What actions might demonstrate that *we* have a humble and contrite heart before God? What might reveal that our heart is *not* tender or that we have *not* humbled ourselves?
6. How does God promise to treat Josiah differently than He treats the people of Judah (vv. 25, 28)? Do you think this promise would bring comfort to Josiah? Why or why not?

Read & Discuss: 2 Chronicles 34:29-33

7. What do Josiah's actions here reveal about the extent of his commitment to God? In what ways have you made a covenant with God? How have you been blessed by this?
8. Verse 32 says that Josiah "made" the people join his covenant with God. Is it wise to "make" people obey God? Why or why not? How should those in authority lead others to do good?

Apply: What does Josiah's example teach us about following God? How will you apply this lesson this week?

Pray: Pray that the people of Neighborhood Church would follow after God with full hearts and great diligence—and that we would do all we can to share our love for God with others.

2 Chronicles 34:19-21

¹⁹ And when the king [Josiah] heard the words of the Law, he tore his clothes. ²⁰ And the king commanded Hilkiah, Ahikam the son of Shaphan, Abdon the son of Micah, Shaphan the secretary, and Asaiah the king's servant, saying, ²¹ "Go, inquire of the LORD for me and for those who are left in Israel and in Judah, concerning the words of the book that has been found. For great is the wrath of the LORD that is poured out on us, because our fathers have not kept the word of the LORD, to do according to all that is written in this book."

2 Chronicles 34:22-28

²² So Hilkiah and those whom the king had sent went to Huldah the prophetess, the wife of Shallum the son of Tokhath, son of Hasrah, keeper of the wardrobe (now she lived in Jerusalem in the Second Quarter) and spoke to her to that effect. ²³ And she said to them, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: 'Tell the man who sent you to me, ²⁴ Thus says the LORD, Behold, I will bring disaster upon this place and upon its inhabitants, all the curses that are written in the book that was read before the king of Judah. ²⁵ Because they have forsaken me and have made offerings to other gods, that they might provoke me to anger with all the works of their hands, therefore my wrath will be poured out on this place and will not be quenched. ²⁶ But to the king of Judah, who sent you to inquire of the LORD, thus shall you say to him, Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Regarding the words that you have heard, ²⁷ because your heart was tender and you humbled yourself before God when you heard his words against this place and its inhabitants, and you have humbled yourself before me and have torn your clothes and wept before me, I also have heard you, declares the LORD. ²⁸ Behold, I will gather you to your fathers, and you shall be gathered to your grave in peace, and your eyes shall not see all the disaster that I will bring upon this place and its inhabitants.'" And they brought back word to the king.

2 Chronicles 34:29-33

²⁹ Then the king sent and gathered together all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem. ³⁰ And the king went up to the house of the LORD, with all the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem and the priests and the Levites, all the people both great and small. And he read in their hearing all the words of the Book of the Covenant that had been found in the house of the LORD. ³¹ And the king stood in his place and made a covenant before the LORD, to walk after the LORD and to keep his commandments and his testimonies and his statutes, with all his heart and all his soul, to perform the words of the covenant that were written in this book. ³² Then he made all who were present in Jerusalem and in Benjamin join in it. And the inhabitants of Jerusalem did according to the covenant of God, the God of their fathers. ³³ And Josiah took away all the abominations from all the territory that belonged to the people of Israel and made all who were present in Israel serve the LORD their God. All his days they did not turn away from following the LORD, the God of their fathers. (ESV)