

Josiah, The 8 year old King
2 Chronicles 34:1-33
May 10, 2015

God was evidently working in and through Josiah.

Josiah's father was Amon and his grandfather was Manasseh, both were evil kings for most of their life.

We don't know much about Josiah's mom, Jedidah, but it is possible she was behind the scenes, loving and teaching Josiah the ways of the One True God.

Here is the invitation and the prayer that I will ask all of us to make at the end, "Lord help me to return to your Word and help me to follow you no matter what others do."

I believe our country is in the mess that it's in not because of the "unbelievers" rather, it's because the believers are not getting right with and following God and His Word. We see this very same thing with the Israelites. God loves us and wants us to know Him intimately.

This morning we will take note of Josiah's progression of faith as he took each step; one at a time:

1) He didn't turn to the right or the left, he stayed on track.

And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the ways of his father David; he did not turn aside to the right hand or to the left. **2 Chronicles 34:2**

We need to stay right in step with God and if we veer off track, need to get right **back** on.

2) His faith and trust in God grew with time, it didn't happen overnight.

For in the eighth year of his reign, while he was still young, he began to seek the God of his father David; and in the twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of the high places, the wooden images, the carved images, and the molded images. **2 Chronicles 34:3**

In the eighteenth year of his reign, when he had purged the land and the temple, he sent Shaphan the son of Azaliah, Maaseiah the governor of the city, and Joah the son of Joahaz the recorder, to repair the house of the LORD his God. **2 Chronicles 34:8**

Changes occurred in Josiah's life as he **regularly** spent time with God and heard from Him.

Our walk with Jesus isn't a **sprint**, something to get over with quickly, it's a **marathon**.

3) Although his heart was right and he was well meaning, he couldn't truly know, obey and follow God without God's Word.

Now when they brought out the money that was brought into the house of the LORD, Hilkiah the priest found the Book of the Law of the LORD given by Moses. Then Hilkiah answered and said to Shaphan the scribe, "I have found the Book of the Law in the house of the LORD." And Hilkiah gave the book to Shaphan. So Shaphan carried the book to the king, bringing the king word, saying, "All that was committed to your servants they are doing. And they have gathered the money that was found in the house of the LORD, and have delivered it into the hand of the overseers and the workmen." Then Shaphan the scribe told the king, saying, "Hilkiah the priest

has given me a book.” And Shaphan read it before the king. Thus it happened, when the king heard the words of the Law, that he tore his clothes. Then the king commanded Hilkiah, Ahikam the son of Shaphan, Abdon the son of Micah, Shaphan the scribe, and Asaiah a servant of the king, saying, “Go, inquire of the LORD for me, and for those who are left in Israel and Judah, concerning the words of the book that is 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 34:14-21

As believers one of the most important things we can do to know the heart of God is **read**, **study** and **memorize** His Word in addition to prayer.

We can't expect to know God or His will for our life if we are not spending time with Him. Nor can we expect to know it if we are involved in willful, disobedient sin.

4) He led and pushed forward when others did not or would not.

Then the king sent and gathered all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem. The king went up to the house of the LORD, with all the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem—the priests and the Levites, and all the people, great and small. And he read in their hearing all the words of the Book of the Covenant, which had been found in the house of the LORD. Then the king stood in his place and made a covenant before the LORD, to follow 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. And he made all who were present in Jerusalem and Benjamin take a stand. So the inhabitants of Jerusalem did according to the covenant of God, the God of their fathers. Thus Josiah removed all the abominations from all the country that belonged to the children of Israel, and made all who were present in Israel diligently serve the LORD their God. All his days they did not depart from following the LORD God of their fathers.

2 Chronicles 34:29-33

Believers, we are to lead, specifically **men!** If we don't lead our families someone else will, I promise.

5) Josiah's obedience was honored and rewarded.

Because your heart was tender, and you humbled yourself before God when you heard His words against this place and against its inhabitants, and you humbled yourself before Me, and you tore your clothes and wept before Me, I also have heard you,” says the LORD. “Surely 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 calamity which I will bring on this place and its inhabitants.” So they brought back word to the king.
2 Chronicles 34:27-28

The very foundation of the Gospel is to know God. The only way that is done is through Jesus. The way we know our Lord is through daily, consistent, time with Him! Are you spending time with Him? Do you know Him? Are you following Him and leading? The consistency and time with the Lord has great benefits and blessings!

“Lord help me to return to Your Word and help me to follow You, no matter what others do.”