

Josiah and the Reformation of the Heart

Shaun Castro

-Allow yourself to grieve the sorrow of your sin

When the king heard the words of the Book of the Law, he tore his clothes...
2 Kings 22:11 ESV

-Seek out guidance and wisdom from godly spiritual leaders together with others.

"Go, inquire of the Lord for me, and for the people, and for all Judah, concerning the words of this book that has been found."
2 Kings 22:13a ESV

-Recognize the Lord's divine authority.

For great is the wrath of the Lord that is kindled against us, because our fathers have not obeyed the words of this book, to do according to all that is written concerning us."
2 Kings 22:13b ESV

-Swiftly respond with repentance.

- **Gather your people.**

Then the king sent, and all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem were gathered to him. And the king went up to the house of the Lord, and with him all the men of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem and the priests and the prophets, all the people, both small and great.
2 Kings 23:1 ESV

- **Share Scripture that means a lot to you.**

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.
2 Kings 23:2 ESV

- **Share your heartfelt commitment of obedience in walking in relationship with the Lord.**

And the king stood by the pillar 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 this covenant that were written in this book.
2 Kings 23:3 ESV

- **Perhaps, your people would join with you in walking in relationship with the Lord.**

And all the people joined in the covenant.
2 Kings 23:3 ESV

- **One person's leadership can lead others back to God.**

- **Be vigilant to remove any idol that competes with or corrupts your devotion to God.**

2 Kings 23:4-20 ESV

- **Be decisive to restore the Passover- remembering Jesus and live devoted to Him.**

2 Kings 23:2 ESV

Let's Talk About It

In Sunday's message, Shaun shared how Josiah was a faithful king whose life was transformed when he encountered the Lord through Scripture. He grieved over sin, sought godly wisdom, and responded with wholehearted repentance. His devotion to God inspired the people of Judah to repent and led them to the removal of anything that competed with the true worship of God. Although the nation's revival lasted only 13 years before the people returned to sin, Josiah points us to the greater King, Jesus Christ. Unlike Josiah, Jesus can completely transform the human heart and restore us to an eternal relationship with God.

2 Kings 22:11,13; 2 Kings 23:1-21

Discussion questions:

1. Which part of the message impacted or challenged you?

2. True repentance involves grieving the sorrow of our sin, seeking wisdom and guidance from godly spiritual leaders alongside other believers, and submitting to the Lord's authority. How do these three practices work together to turn our hearts toward God and lead to lasting transformation?

3. How might gathering your friends, sharing Scriptures and what God has done in your life, then declaring your heart to follow Him, lead others to come into relationship with God? Share your story.

4. Are there any idols that are competing with or corrupting your devotion to God? If so, what are they and what steps can you take to remove them, or put them in their proper place and priority- under the lordship of Christ?

5. What is the Passover? How might remembering it lead to greater devotion to Jesus?

Take a Step

This week, ask God to reveal any sin or idol that is competing with or corrupting your devotion to Him. Confess it, receive His forgiveness, and ask Him what next step He wants you to take to remove it or place it in its proper priority—under the Lordship of Christ.

Here's My Prayer

Lord, thank you so much for your unconditional love that continually pursues me. Please forgive me for allowing the idol of _____ in my life that competes and corrupts my devotion to You. I repent and turn back to You. I choose to remove this idol from my life and put it in its proper place. My heart and devotion is to You alone. Fill me with Your Holy Spirit that I may lead others closer to You. In Jesus' name. Amen.