

LIFE Group Guide
Righteousness
Pastor Colin Smith
May 12, 2019
II Kings 22-23



Prayer Request: Thank the Father for his patience toward us in spite of our sin. Praise Him for the gift of forgiveness and salvation through the sending of the Son. Pray that the Holy Spirit would open your hearts to receive the truths of His Word.

Icebreaker Question(s): What has been the highlight of your spring so far?

Read II Kings 22:3-13; 23:1-3, 21-23:

³ In the eighteenth year of King Josiah, the king sent Shaphan the son of Azaliah, son of Meshullam, the secretary, to the house of the LORD, saying, ⁴“Go up to Hilkiah the high priest, that he may count the money that has been brought into the house of the LORD, which the keepers of the threshold have collected from the people. ⁵And let it be given into the hand of the workmen who have the oversight of the house of the LORD, and let them give it to the workmen who are at the house of the LORD, repairing the house ⁶(that is, to the carpenters, and to the builders, and to the masons), and let them use it for buying timber and quarried stone to repair the house. ⁷But no accounting shall be asked from them for the money that is delivered into their hand, for they deal honestly.”

⁸ And Hilkiah the high priest said to Shaphan the secretary, “I have found the Book of the Law in the house of the LORD.” And Hilkiah gave the book to Shaphan, and he read it. ⁹ And Shaphan the secretary came to the king, and reported to the king, “Your servants have emptied out the money that was found in the house and have delivered it into the hand of the workmen who have the oversight of the house of the LORD.” ¹⁰ Then Shaphan the secretary told the king, “Hilkiah the priest has given me a book.” And Shaphan read it before the king.

¹¹ When the king heard the words of the Book of the Law, he tore his clothes. ¹² And the king commanded Hilkiah the priest, and Ahikam the son of Shaphan, and Achbor the son of Micaiah, and Shaphan the secretary, and Asaiah the king's servant, saying, ¹³“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. 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.”

23 Then the king sent, and all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem were gathered to him. ² 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. 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. ³ 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. And all the people joined in the covenant.

²¹ And the king commanded all the people, “Keep the Passover to the LORD your God, as it is written in this Book of the Covenant.” ²² For no such Passover had been kept since the days of the judges who judged Israel, or during all the days of the kings of Israel or of the kings of Judah. ²³ But in the eighteenth year of King Josiah this Passover was kept to the LORD in Jerusalem.

Sermon Outline:

Three encouragements from the story of King Josiah

- 1. Seek The Lord Early** (II Chronicles 34:3)
- 2. Receive God's Word** (II Kings 22:8, 10-11, 23:2-3)
- 3. Stay Faithful Whatever The Outcome** (II Kings 22:20, II Chronicles 34:32-33, Jeremiah 3:10, 31:31, 33)

Conclusion: Josiah and Jesus

Discussion Questions:

1. As you heard the word of God preached or read, what did the Holy Spirit remind you of, challenge you with, convict you of, or encourage you in? Did you have any questions or was anything unclear?
2. Read II Kings 22:3-13; 23:1-3, 21-23. Josiah grew up in a spiritually-confused, biblically-illiterate culture. How was his cultural setting similar to our culture? How was it different?
3. Read II Kings 22:11-13. When Josiah read the Word of God, he responded with mourning and repentance. How do you normally respond to the Word of God, especially when it challenges you?
4. How has God used His Word to convict you of sin in your life in the past? How is His Word challenging you currently?
5. Josiah responded to the rediscovery of the Word of God by initiating reforms of the kingdom of Judah. How successful was he? What is the value of moral laws? What are their limitations?
6. Read Jeremiah 3:10. Have you ever, like Judah, served the LORD partially, or in pretense? If so, when, and why?
7. Read Jeremiah 31:31-34. Where does true righteousness come from? What is God able to do that no parent, church, or government can ever do?

Prayer: O Father, we confess that we have not always obeyed your words, we have not done all that you have commanded us. We confess that we have often treacherously refused to return to you with our whole heart, but only in pretense. We thank you that despite our sin, you have made a covenant with us, that you have put your law within us, and have written it on our hearts. We thank you that despite our sin, through the work of the Son, you are our God, and we are your people, and that we all know you, from the least of us to the greatest. We thank you that through the work of the Son, you have forgiven our iniquity, and you remember our sin no more. Amen. (*Adapted from II Kings 22:13, Jeremiah 3:10, 31:31-34*)