

When Young Hearts Seek God: The Revival Under Josiah

Josiah became king when he was only eight years old, and he reigned for thirty-one years in Jerusalem. Despite growing up in the shadow of his wicked father Amon and grandfather Manasseh, something remarkable happened:

“In the eighth year of his reign, while he was still young, he began to seek the God of his father David.” (v. 3)

At just sixteen years old, Josiah chose to seek God for himself. Not out of tradition, not just because it was expected—but with a genuine hunger to know the Lord.

Personal Application:

It doesn't matter how old you are—or what kind of family you come from. You can choose to seek God *now*. Josiah wasn't waiting for life to get easier or for a perfect environment. If your heart is ready, God is ready. Don't wait for revival to start somewhere else—let it start in you.

By the time Josiah was twenty, his pursuit of God turned into action. He started tearing down every trace of idol worship in Judah and Jerusalem. Altars to Baal? Gone. Carved images? Destroyed. Pagan shrines? Burned to ash. He even traveled north into areas like Ephraim and Naphtali, extending his reforms as far as possible.

Personal Application:

When we seek God, *He starts cleaning house*. You can't walk closely with Him and hang on to idols—whether it's a hidden habit, a toxic relationship, or misplaced priorities. Josiah didn't just make a private commitment—he took bold public steps to remove what didn't belong in a life devoted to the Lord.

The Book That Changed Everything

At age 26, Josiah began restoring the temple that had fallen into disrepair under previous kings. As the workers were cleaning, something life-changing happened: they discovered a forgotten scroll of God's Law—likely a portion of Deuteronomy.

When Josiah heard the words read aloud, he was crushed. He tore his clothes in grief and cried out:

“Great is the wrath of the Lord that is poured out on us, because our ancestors have not kept the Word of the Lord...” (v. 21)

Personal Application:

Sometimes, we don't realize how far we've drifted until we open God's Word. Scripture has a way of confronting us, exposing where we've compromised, and calling us back to truth. Don't avoid the conviction of Scripture—*lean into it*. That's where real change begins.

Josiah sent messengers to a prophetess named Huldah, asking for God's insight. She confirmed that judgment was coming—but because of Josiah's humility, it wouldn't come during his lifetime.

“Because your heart was tender... and you humbled yourself before God... I have heard you,” declares the Lord. (v. 27)

Personal Application:

God responds to the humble heart. He’s not looking for perfection—He’s looking for people who take His Word seriously and respond with humility. That soft, surrendered posture invites mercy—even in the face of judgment.

Revival Starts with Commitment

Josiah didn’t keep the Word to himself. He gathered all the people and read the entire book of the covenant aloud. Then he stood publicly and made a covenant:

“To follow the Lord and keep His commands... with all his heart and all his soul.” (v. 31)

Then he cleared out every remaining idol and led the people to serve the Lord. And as long as Josiah lived, they didn’t turn away.

Personal Application:

Leadership matters. Josiah didn’t just pray in private—he led publicly. He read the Word, made a covenant, and cleared out compromise. Whether you’re leading a family, a team, or just your own life—others are watching. What would it look like for you to stand and say, *“As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord”* (Joshua 24:15)?

Final Thought:

Josiah didn’t wait to grow old before choosing to walk with God. He sought the Lord early, responded to the Word personally, and influenced a nation spiritually. His story shows us that revival is possible—but it begins with someone willing to seek God with all their heart.

“He made a covenant before the Lord... with all his heart and with all his soul...” (v. 31)

If you feel like the world around you is full of compromise, brokenness, or spiritual apathy, don’t despair. Be the Josiah. Seek God. Tear down the idols in your life. Open His Word. Respond with humility. Lead others toward truth. And trust that God still honors those who honor Him.