

Life Lesson 95

Josiah

Text: Psalm 119:130; II Kings 22

Introduction

Can you imagine what it would be like to live in a world that was always dark, never daylight? Suppose it was always night and there were no lamps or light bulbs. What would it be like to live in a world that was always pitch black?

For one thing, it would be hard to see where you were going. You might start out to walk to school and wind up on the other side of town. In a dark world, you couldn't know if you were going the right direction.

You also wouldn't know what you looked like. No one else would know either, and you couldn't tell what our friends looked like. You could be ugly and dirty and no one would know, but that wouldn't make you pretty or clean!

Psalm 119:130 says, "The entrance of thy words giveth light." When we have light, we can see what we are like and what others are like. We can see where we are going. The Bible shows us the way we should live. It shows us what we are like. It shows us the path of life.

Today in our story we will see how the light of God's Word changed a whole nation.

The Story

Josiah was just eight years old when he became king. Can you image a third-grader being king over a whole country? Of course, he had help until he was older.

When Josiah was 16 years old, he began to seek the Lord. As soon as he had control of the kingdom, he began to get rid of the idols and idol-worshipping priests. He also decided that the temple of the Lord should be repaired and fixed up.

Shaphan, the scribe, went to see how the work on the temple was going so that he could report the progress to King Josiah.

"Everything is great," said Hilkiah, the priest. "We're getting things fixed up nicely. While we were cleaning up around here we found these scrolls that Moses wrote. I think you'd better have the king look at them."

Shaphan took the scrolls to the king. The king was interested and asked Shaphan to read them aloud. Shaphan did – and suddenly light shone on a king who had been living in darkness. The scrolls contained the law of God.

“Oh, no!” Josiah cried. “I thought we were just fine, but now I see that we’ve been doing everything wrong. We’ve been going down the wrong paths. We’ve been dirty and sinful and we never realized it. We better find out what we should do. The scroll says that God will punish the people who don’t keep the law. We’re in trouble!”

Josiah sent Hilkiah the priest to ask Huldah, the prophetess, what they should do.

“God says to give the king this message,” Huldah told Hilkiah. “I will surely send all these curses on the land because of the sins of the people. I said I will destroy the land and I will, because I always do what I say I will do. But, Josiah, because you have repented and humbled yourself, I will give the land a reprieve. I won’t destroy it while you are alive. As long as you are king, I will give peace to the land.”

This was good news to Josiah. He called all the people together and stood before them. He read aloud the law of God that Hilkiah discovered in the temple. Before God and all the people he vowed to keep the law and to be a good king.

He did his best to keep his promise. He got rid of everything that the law said God hated. He started keeping the passovers and feast days. As long as he was king, the people served the Lord.

“The entrance of thy words giveth light,” the Psalmist said. The light of God’s Word turned a nation around and gave them peace.

The Life Lesson

We encourage you to read your Bible every day, because we know what Josiah discovered. The entrance of God’s word in your life can show you how to live. It can show you your sinful heart and how to be forgiven and made pleasing to God.

Read your Bible – and walk in the light!

Review Questions

How old was Josiah when he became king?

Eight years old.

What change did Josiah make when he was 16 years old?

He began to follow the Lord.

What did Josiah decide to do about the temple?

He decided to clean it up and fix it up.

What did Hilkiyah the priest find while they were cleaning the temple?

The Word of God.

Who brought the Scriptures to the king?

Shaphan the scribe

What did Josiah suddenly see when he read the Scriptures?

He and his people had been sinning against God and were due God's judgement.

What message did Huldah the prophetess give King Josiah from God?

Because you have repented, the judgement won't come while you are king.

How can you know how to please God?

By reading His Word.