

September 15, 2021

Josiah's Response

In our last meditation we began considering Josiah's response to the Word of God that was found during the process of repairing the temple. The first thing Josiah did was to humble himself before the Lord. He rent his clothes as a sign of humility. The second thing Josiah did was to enquire of the Lord concerning the prophecies written in the scroll. God then sent word to Josiah that the judgments recorded in the book would indeed come to pass, but because he had humbled himself before the Lord, they would not come during his lifetime. That brings us to the third aspect of Josiah's response, he entered into a covenant before the Lord. Read **II Chronicles 34:29-33**.

When God sent word to Josiah that the judgment would not come in his lifetime, it encouraged his walk with the Lord. The first thing he did was to gather everyone together at the house of the Lord. This included men and women, adult and child, great and small, spiritual and political leaders, and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem. He then read all the words of the book that was found in the house of the Lord to everyone that was present. No one was excluded and no one could claim they didn't know what God had said in His Word. As a Christian, how important to you is attendance to the house of God and to the reading and preaching of His Word? In **Matthew 6:33** Jesus said, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness..." The Biblical principle of priorities places the things of God above all else. As believers we need to be faithful and reverence God's Day, God's House, God's Word, and God's Time. Are there things in your life that you allow to keep you from the things of God? Are the things that you value most temporal or eternal in nature?

After reading God's Word, Josiah made a covenant with the people before the Lord. There are two aspects to the covenant. The first was the action. There are three words in **verse 31** that describe the action, walk, keep, and perform. All three words speak of obedience. Not just a verbal consent, but a doing of the things consented to. The word walk means to pursue after. The word keep means to hedge about or protect. The word perform means to do or accomplish. What actions of obedience does God expect from you?

The second aspect of the covenant was the attitude. Josiah entered into the covenant with all his heart, and soul. Similar wording is used by Christ in describing the first or greatest commandment. Read **Deuteronomy 6:4-7, Deuteronomy 10:12-13, Matthew 22:37, Mark 12:30-33, and Luke 10:27**. We are to be whole-hearted in our devotion, single-minded in our focus, and mentally tough in our effort. Do these verses describe your walk with the Lord? If not, what needs to change and how can you accomplish that change?

In **verse 32**, Josiah then caused all the people to stand to the covenant. This is not talking about standing up for the reading of the covenant but standing firm to the words of the covenant. In **verse 33** the idea of standing firm is expressed in the negative, departed not. A person who turns away or departs, is not standing true or firm. In **Ephesians 6:10-13**, what are we told to stand against and to withstand? According of **Ephesians 6:14-17**, what do we need in order to stand firm? Consider George Duffield's hymn, "Stand Up for Jesus."

Stand up, stand up for Jesus, ye soldiers of the cross!
Lift high His royal banner it must not suffer loss.
From vict'ry unto vict'ry His army shall He lead,
Till ev'ry foe is vanquished and Christ is Lord indeed.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus, the trumpet call obey;
Forth to the mighty conflict in this His glorious day.
Ye that are men now serve Him against unnumbered foes;
Let courage rise with danger and strength to strength oppose.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus, stand in His strength alone;
The arm of flesh will fail you ye dare not trust your own.
Put on the gospel armor, each piece put on with prayer;
Where duty calls or danger, be never wanting there.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus, the strife will not be long;
This day the noise of battle the next, the victor's song.
To him that over-cometh a crown of life shall be;
He with the King of glory shall reign eternally.

Verse 33 ends with this testimony, "And all his days they departed not from following the Lord, the God of their fathers." This ought to be our response to the Word of God as well.