

Cherished-Chosen-Challenged – March 14, 2010

Rediscovered...

“Now it happened when the king heard the words of the Law that he tore his clothes.” II Chronicles 34:19

Josiah was eight years old when he became king in Jerusalem. Talk about a lack of experience for the job...can you imagine having a king who was eight years old? There was a great deal of turmoil when Josiah was made king. He followed Amon as king. Amon was a very wicked man. He had followed in the early practices of his father, King Manasseh. King Amon was an idol worshipper. He sacrificed to the carved images his father had once made and he served them. He did not acknowledge or serve the Lord God. So wicked was King Amon, that after two years of reigning in Jerusalem he was assassinated by his servants in his own house.

It was into this boiling pot that Josiah was poured. Pressure enough for a seasoned ruler and full grown man, but what of an eight year old boy? Josiah was a good king. The Lord allowed him to rule thirty-one years in Jerusalem. He was not perfect. He had his problems. However, he was humble before the Lord God and he served and worshipped only the Lord.

It took him some time to set things in order. He had a great deal of work to do, purging the land of the idol worship that had infected it and restoring the temple. During that time there was a great discovery that was made. To Josiah was brought the Book of the Law. The people had lost the Word of God! When Josiah heard it as it was read to him he was grieved because the people and his forefathers had failed to do what was written in the Book of the Law. They had forsaken the Lord God and all His commands and promises.

What was Josiah to do? What could he do other than repent and throw himself on the mercy of God? What a wonderful and blessed discovery! The Word of God again ruled centrally in the life of the people of

Israel. They had a devout and godly king, who subjugated himself to the true King and Ruler of the universe—God.

God blessed Josiah. He promised him peace during his reign. More than that, the rediscovery of God's holy Word led to the proper worship of the only true God and the joyful expectation of God's fulfillment of all His promises. We too could benefit from rediscovery of God's Word in our lives. He cherished us enough to make the ultimate sacrifice by sending His Son Jesus to die for our sins on Calvary's cross. He desperately wants to draw us to Himself and hold us forth as His holy people who serve Him alone and become His witnesses thus drawing others to Himself.

Do you know what is written in the Book of the Law, God's holy Word, or is it "lost" to you? If God could do great things with an eight year old king who humbled himself before the Lord, what great things does God have in store for us when we humble ourselves before Him and "become doers of the word and not hearers only", as James tells us?

- Remember: Our God is a gracious and merciful God who is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He does forgive our sins for the sake of His Son and will use us as He deems best in His kingdom regardless of what the world thinks of our talents and abilities.
- Remember: A continued study of the Word will help us to be prepared for the challenges ahead. Make it a point to come to Church, Sunday School, and Bible Class to grow in your knowledge of God's holy will for you and your life.

How blessed we are to be the people of God. He has chosen us to be in this place. He has prepared us for this time. **Don't wait for someone else to do it. If you wait on someone else to do it...it will never get done!** God bless you in the growth of your faith and in service to Him and His people, for your labor in the Lord is never in vain.

Pastor Jacobs

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