

Hear The Words

8-30-20

2 Chronicles 34:19 (ESV)

And when the king heard **the words of the Law**, he tore his clothes.

Josiah tore his clothes after hearing the Word of God. Who was this king who was so mightily moved by hearing the Word of God? Who was this king who comes to reign after God has already declared irreversible judgement against Judah because the evil reign of two previous kings?

2 Chronicles 34:1 (ESV)

Josiah was **eight years old** when he began to reign, and he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem.

Incredibly, Josiah's reign began at 8 years of age, but more incredibly he seeks the LORD at 16, purges the land of idols at 20, and repairs the Temple of God at 26.

2 Chronicles 34:3 (ESV)

For in the eighth year of his reign (16 years old), while he was yet a boy, he began to seek the God of David his father, and in the twelfth year (20 years old) he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of the carved and the metal images.

2 Chronicles 34:8 (ESV)

Now in the eighteenth year of his reign (26 years old), he sent Shaphan to repair the house of the LORD his God.

With this godly beginning, it is good to see that he not only finishes well, but also, he did better than those before him!

2 Kings 23:25 (ESV)

Before him there was no king like him, who turned to the LORD with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his might, according to all the Law of Moses, nor did any like him arise after him.

None of the kings of Judah had the zeal for the “Word of God” like Josiah. Hezekiah had been unequaled in faith among the kings, but Josiah had no rival in his devotion to the Word of God. **What were the positive influences that made this boy one of the greatest kings in Israel’s history?** For a boy eight years old we must believe one such influence was his mother. In 2 Kings 22:1 we see her name is **Jedidah**. Her name literally means beloved or lovely which we must believe also reflected her character. Another person of influence must have been **Jeremiah**.

Jeremiah 1:1–2 (ESV)

The words of the Lord came to Jeremiah, in the days of Josiah in the thirteenth year of his reign (21 years old).

A godly mother and a devoted man of God had a tremendous impact on this young man. The people around us does make a difference.

At 26 when Josiah had the Temple of God repaired, he made the greatest discovery of his life.

2 Chronicles 34:15 (ESV)

Then Hilkiyah the priest said, “I have found the Book of the Law in the house of the LORD.”

While repairing the Temple of God, they found the written Word of God, the Books of the Law. Religion had always been present, but the foundational truth of the Word of God had been ignored. Now the King was going to hear the very God breathed Word of God.

2 Chronicles 34:18-21 (ESV)

Then Shaphan the secretary told the king, “Hilkiah the priest has given me **a book.**” And Shaphan read from it before the king. ¹⁹ And when the king heard **the words of the Law**, he tore his clothes. ²⁰ And the king commanded, ²¹ “Go, inquire of the LORD for me and for those who are left in Israel and in Judah, concerning **the words of the book** that has been found. For great is the wrath of the LORD that is poured out on us, because our fathers have not kept **the word of the LORD**, to do according to all **that is written in this book.**”

The God Breathed Word revealed God’s unapproachable holiness. Therefore, Josiah saw there was a depth to God he had never imagined. After hearing the Word of God, the prophetess Huldah confirmed to Josiah what he had read.

2 Chronicles 34:22–25 (ESV)

²² So Hilkiah and those whom the king had sent went to Huldah the prophetess. ²³ And she said to them, “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: ‘Tell the man who sent you to me (Josiah),

²⁴ Thus says the LORD,

Behold, I will bring disaster upon this place and upon its inhabitants, **all the curses that are written in the book** that was read before the king of Judah. ²⁵ Because they have forsaken me and have made offerings to other gods, that they might provoke me to anger with all the works of their hands, therefore my wrath will be poured out on this place **and will not be quenched.**

God was going to bring **irreversible judgement** on Judah, because of the sins of Josiah's grandfather and father. **However, Huldah the prophetess also prophesied to Josiah that because he had a tender heart for God and believed the Word of God, the judgement would be delayed and not fall on Josiah.** Good lesson for us. Because of our obedience God's judgement could be delayed. Huldah continues:

2 Chronicles 34:26–28 (ESV)

²⁶ But to the king of Judah, who sent you to inquire of the LORD, thus shall you say to him, **Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Regarding the words that you have heard, ²⁷ because your heart was tender and you humbled yourself before God when you heard his words against this place and its inhabitants, and you have humbled yourself before me and have torn your clothes and wept before me, I also have heard you, declares the LORD.** ²⁸ Behold, I will gather you to your fathers, and you shall be gathered to your grave in peace, and your eyes shall not see all the disaster that I will bring upon this place and its inhabitants.' ”

Today like Josiah we need to have a tender heart before God and believe God's Word.

James 1:22–24 (ESV)

²² But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, **deceiving yourselves**. ²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. ²⁴ For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like.

When we read the Word of God and there is not any application, there is not any faith. Enjoying a good sermon and being enlightened by reading the Word without application is useless or worse, it is self-deception. This is like looking in a mirror and then turning away and immediately forgetting what you look like which is ludicrous, but no less ludicrous than the believer who listens carefully to God's truth and does not put it into practice. **Like Josiah the purpose of listening to truth is to act upon it. Theoretical knowledge **"ONLY"** of spiritual truth is never commended in Scripture. **In fact, hearing without application is condemned.****

Like Josiah we must act on what we hear and read. We must start with the truth we know! Primarily:

Acts 4:12 (ESV)

There is salvation in no one else (but Jesus), for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.