

## 2021 Men's Training Camp - Sunday Breakout Session - Mr. Ciesielka - Josiah

Why is Josiah a good example of a righteous follower? How was it such a vital key to his incredible *leadership*?

The better we are at following, the better we will be at leading. Josiah was the sixteenth king of Judah (640-609 BC). He sought God like his grandfather, Hezekiah. He was a contemporary with Jeremiah, Huldah, Zephaniah and Habakkuk. He chose to follow the Eternal, not his father, not his grandfather, not the people and not the surrounding pagans. He was righteous in his following!

He destroyed the pagan temples and altars. He restored proper temple worship. His rule was a relative time of peace and prosperity—like today. Things were beginning to get more and more difficult—like today. His hatred of idolatry was so great, he opened the tombs of the pagan priests and burned their bones on the pagan altars before they were destroyed! Ouch.

Psalms 96:8-9 - "Give to the Lord the glory due His name. Bring an offering and come into His courts. Oh, worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness! Tremble before Him, all the earth." This was Josiah through and through. God's law was real to him despite all the wickedness.

I Kings 13:1-3; II Kings 23:15-18 - Jeroboam has a man of God speak to him about a prophecy about Josiah burning these bones on the altar. On that same altar that Jeroboam made, Josiah tears it down, crushes it and burns their bones on that altar! There's a severe intolerance for evil!

Of course, none of us are the king of Charlotte, Kansas City, or Dallas. We don't go downtown and try to reform everyone. But we can have this kind of zeal in our home, even when friends or neighbors or family come over. Josiah executed righteous authority within his control. Be zealous for the law and against evil.

II Chronicles 34:8-28 - The Law of God was forgotten, and Shaphan is reading from the Law, and it really convicted Josiah. He could see that God was going to strike Jerusalem! So he sent to Huldah to learn what punishment would befall Judah, but it wouldn't happen in Josiah's day. So he launched a program to cleanse the temple and restore proper worship.

We do the same today in the Tomorrow's World programs and magazines. Josiah's reforms were sent up to Samaria and kills priests up there, too, out of his authority. We can't do this, per se, but where we can influence, we should influence. We can do this in the congregation, in our families, at the office, etc. We have to exercise wisdom in these ways.

As the man of the house, and don't go overboard, but don't be afraid to have rules. Have rules for yourself. Let your friends know that after sunset Friday, you DO have conversations about the Bible and the coming Kingdom of God.

II Chronicles 33:25-35:27

Jeremiah 1:1-3, 22:11, 18

Matthew 1:10-11

In a period of perverted national wickedness, and in the face of incredible international pressure from hostile and pagan superpowers, why was King Josiah such a strong king, such an effective leader, and such a zealous reformer? He faced what we are facing today. They were a vassal state and were taxed out of their minds. They had major supply chain issues if they didn't pay enough tribute. "He who cannot be a good follower cannot be a good leader." - Aristotle. Josiah was a great king because he was a great follower. According to God, there was no one greater than Josiah who turned his people to righteousness—not even David.

Babylon was a huge empire in comparison to Judah at that time. Josiah lived right before the "Great Tribulation" of his time and saw it coming. The parallels are frighteningly accurate. He reigned from age eight to thirty-nine. He was killed by army of Pharoah Necho II. He shouldn't have! Why did he do this?? He was greatly mourned by Jeremiah and all the people, then went right back into paganism.

Christians follow Christ. Matthew 4:19; 8:22, John 10:27

II Kings 29:25 - Never before had there been a king like Josiah, who turned to the Lord with all his heart and soul and strength, obeying all the laws of Moses. And there has never been a king like him since.

Lessons:

1. Chose to follow the Eternal
2. His followership made him strong
3. He inspired his people to follow him
4. He made a lasting impression and was highly complimented by God