

Josiah – A Success in Serving God

Negative Examples

1 Cor. 10:6,11 “Now these things happened as examples for us, that we should not crave evil things, as they also craved.”

11 “Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.”

Positive Examples

Rom. 15:4 “For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.”

I. Good Example of King Josiah

2 Kings 22:1 “Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem; and his mother's name *was* Jedidah the daughter of Adaiah of Bozkath.

8 years old - 31 year reign

vs. **2** “And he did right in the sight of the LORD and walked in all the way of his father David, nor did he turn aside to the right or to the left.”

did right - did not turn to right or left

Matt. 7:13,14 “Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide, and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter by it.

14 For the gate is small, and the way is narrow that leads to life, and few are those who find it.”

Turned to Lord with all this heart.

2 Kings 23:25 “And 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.”

This is just as the “greatest commandment” says one should do.

II. What Actions Made Him A Success?

A. Purged Idolatry

2 Chron. 34:3 “For in the eighth year of his reign while he was still a youth, he began to seek the God of his father David; and in the twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of the high places, the Asherim, the carved images, and the molten images.”

This was greatest sin of Israel – and he sought to do something about it.

B. Restored the Passover

2 Kings 23:21,22 “Then the king commanded all the people saying, “Celebrate the Passover to the LORD your God as it is written in this book of the covenant.”

22 Surely such a Passover had not been celebrated from the days of the judges who judged Israel, nor in all the days of the kings of Israel and of the kings of Judah.”

C. Repaired the Temple

2 Chron. 34:8 “Now in the eighteenth year of his reign, when he had purged the land and the house, he sent Shaphan the son of Azaliah, and Maaseiah an official of the city, and Joah the son of Joahaz the recorder, to repair the house of the LORD his God.”

D. Reversed 57 Years of Ungodliness

2 Kings 21:19-22 “Amon was twenty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned two years in Jerusalem; and his mother's name *was* Meshullemeth the daughter of Haruz of Jotbah.

20 And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, as Manasseh his father had done.

21 For he walked in all the way that his father had walked, and served the idols that his father had served and worshiped them.

22 So he forsook the LORD, the God of his fathers, and did not walk in the way of the LORD.”

Manasseh & Amon – no character or leadership in the king – only contempt for the things of God.

Q: What have you done for God?

Eph. 2:10 “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”

What fruits are you bearing?

Have you and your life had a good impact on family, friend, neighbor, brother?

You need to take time for some self examination.

Trains run a great distance on settled tracks – but we must also ask, what have you had to overcome?

Many can't escape the demons of their past: family history, culture, religious traditions, etc.

III. Reasons for Josiah's Success

A. Josiah Served God When He was Still Young

2 Chron. 34:1 “Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem.”

8 years old – 2nd grade? 31 years reign, so 39 when he died

vs. **3** “For in the eighth year of his reign while he was still a youth, he began to seek the God of his father David; and in the twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of the high places, the Asherim, the carved images, and the molten images.”

sought God when he was still young 16 years old

20 years old began the purge of idolatry

vs. **8** “Now in the eighteenth year of his reign, when he had purged the land and the house, he sent Shaphan the son of Azaliah, and Maaseiah an official of the city, and Joah the son of Joahaz the recorder, to repair the house of the LORD his God.”

26 years old when repaired the house of the Lord

Ecc. 11:9-12:1 “Rejoice, young man, during your childhood, and let your heart be pleasant during the days of young manhood. And follow the impulses of your heart and the desires of your eyes. Yet know that God will bring you to judgment for all these things.

10 So, remove vexation from your heart and put away pain from your body, because childhood and the prime of life are fleeting.

1 Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near when you will say, "I have no delight in them”

We are not long young - have fun & enjoy - but know that God will judge.

There are “evil days” coming - days of old age will come soon enough.

B. No Excuses – Overcame Family Problems

2 Kings 21:21 “For he [Amon] walked in all the way that his father had walked, and served the idols that his father had served and worshiped them.”

daddy did wrong

Manasseh, Josiah's grand daddy did wrong, even taking the lead in it.

2 Kings 21:2-7 “And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, according to the abominations of the nations whom the LORD dispossessed before the sons of Israel.

3 For he rebuilt the high places which Hezekiah his father had destroyed; and he erected altars for Baal and made an Asherah, as Ahab king of Israel had done, and worshiped all the host of heaven and served them.

4 And he built altars in the house of the LORD, of which the LORD had said, "In Jerusalem I will put My name.”

5 For he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the LORD.

6 And he made his son pass through the fire, practiced witchcraft and used divination, and dealt with mediums and spiritists. He did much evil in the sight of the LORD provoking *Him to anger*.

7 Then he set the carved image of Asherah that he had made, in the house of which the LORD said to David and to his son Solomon, "In this house and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen from all the tribes of Israel, I will put My name forever."

He shed much innocent blood. He was a mass murderer.

vs. **16** "Moreover, Manasseh shed very much innocent blood until he had filled Jerusalem from one end to another; besides his sin with which he made Judah sin, in doing evil in the sight of the LORD."

Josiah could have followed the family tradition:

could have blamed genetics, environment, dysfunctional family, etc.

but he didn't blame everything on everybody

2 Kings 18:3-5 "And he did right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father David had done.

4 He removed the high places and broke down the *sacred* pillars and cut down the Asherah. He also broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made, for until those days the sons of Israel burned incense to it; and it was called Nehushtan.

5 He trusted in the LORD, the God of Israel; so that after him there was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor *among those* who were before him."

Hezekiah, his great great grandfather, was a good man.

Josiah chose the right one to follow.

C. Looked to Older Godly People

There were prophets there.

2 Kings 23:1,2 "Then the king sent, and they gathered to him all the elders of Judah and of Jerusalem.

2 And the king went up to the house of the LORD and all the men of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem with him, and the priests and the prophets and all the people, both small and great; and he read in their hearing all the words of the book of the covenant, which was found in the house of the LORD."

Unlike the days of his father, there were several prophets who prophesied in his days.

Zeph. 1:1 "The word of the LORD which came to Zephaniah son of Cushi, son of Gedaliah, son of Amariah, son of Hezekiah, in the days of Josiah son of Amon, king of Judah"

Jer. 1:1,2 "The words of Jeremiah, the son of Hilkiyah, of the priests who were in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin,

2 to whom the word of the LORD came in the days of Josiah, the son of Amon, king of Judah, in the thirteenth year of his reign."

There were were other men of spiritual experience there.

2 Kings 23:3 "Now it came about in the eighteenth year of King Josiah that the king sent Shaphan, the son of Azaliah the son of Meshullam the scribe, to the house of the LORD saying"

8 "Then Hilkiyah the high priest said to Shaphan the scribe, "I have found the book of the law in the house of the LORD." And Hilkiyah gave the book to Shaphan who read it."

14 "So Hilkiyah the priest, Ahikam, Achbor, Shaphan, and Asaiah went to Huldah the prophetess, the wife of Shallum the son of Tikvah, the son of Harhas, keeper of the wardrobe (now she lived in Jerusalem in the Second Quarter); and they spoke to her."

Shaphan – scribe Hilkiyah – priest Huldah – prophet

Josiah surrounded himself with godly people for leadership and advice

Seek the counsel of the aged.

Deut. 32:7 "Remember the days of old, Consider the years of all generations. Ask your father, and he will inform you, Your elders, and they will tell you."

Like older women teach the younger.

Tit. 2:3,4 "Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips, nor enslaved

to much wine, teaching what is good,

4 that they may encourage [admonish, teach, train] the young women to love their husbands, to love their children”

Job 8:8 “Please inquire of past generations, And consider the things searched out by their fathers.”

D. Hated What God Hated – Loved What God Loved

1 Kings 23:4-20 Here is a blow by blow account of attack on idolatry – unlimited contempt for idolatry.

They burned, carried ashes, did away with priests, burned, ground to dust, threw the dust, broke down houses, defiled pagan alters, smashed alters, broke to pieces sacred pillars, cut down idols, filled them with bones, demolished with stones, ground to dust, burned, removed houses and high places, slaughtered priests on their alters and burned their bones.

Why? Because he knew what God wanted and set about doing it.

E. Consulted the Book of the Law

2 Kings 22:8-13 “Then Hilkiyah the high priest said to Shaphan the scribe, "I have found the book of the law in the house of the LORD." And Hilkiyah gave the book to Shaphan who read it.

9 And Shaphan the scribe came to the king and brought back word to the king and said, "Your servants have emptied out the money that was found in the house, and have delivered it into the hand of the workmen who have the oversight of the house of the LORD."

10 Moreover, Shaphan the scribe told the king saying, "Hilkiyah the priest has given me a book." And Shaphan read it in the presence of the king.

11 And it came about when the king heard the words of the book of the law, that he tore his clothes.

12 Then the king commanded Hilkiyah the priest, Ahikam the son of Shaphan, Achbor the son of Micaiah, Shaphan the scribe, and Asaiah the king's servant saying,

13 Go, inquire of the LORD for me and the people and all Judah concerning the words of this book that has been found, for great is the wrath of the LORD that burns against us, because our fathers have not listened to the words of this book, to do according to all that is written concerning us”

He repented and asked to know more, gathered others and told them to as well.

He respected God’s word – sought God before the Law was found.

He did not have the word of God to rely on during his raising.

He only had the testimony of some faithful person who taught him contrary to all of the culture that they lived in.

2 Tim. 1:5 “For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois, and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that *it is* in you as well.”

3:14,15 “You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*;

15 and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”

The faith and teachings of others can get you a great jump start on life.

***But when he found the Law he took it to heart for himself and acted on it.

He was moved by the reading of the Law.

When was the last time the word of God - in private or public study - cause you to pause - to have to be emotionally moved, to pause, to shudder - give an AHH-OH

When did it last cause you to repent and reform?

Josiah was a man like we are, he was young but did much.

How does the inventory of your life and your standing before God compare?

Do as Josiah did and prosper.