

Lesson Five of the Series

- This is the last lesson on Josiah before we unveil the mission strategy. At the start of the series we covered the fact that all nations, civilizations and cultures have a beginning and an end. Wherever you find people, you will find problems with groups of people.
- In the second lesson we revealed that Josiah was a young boy when he sought out God and by the age of a teenager he rebelled against the sin of the culture. Tearing down the pagan idols and assaulting the wicked system was indeed important for it showed that he wanted to do the right thing.
- In lessons three and four we followed Josiah through the steps of Reparation, Re-education and Repentance, something that was necessary in being a good man and leader of God.

F) There must be Rededication!

II Kings 23:21-23 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. 23 But in the eighteenth year of King Josiah, this Passover was observed to the LORD in Jerusalem.

- Apparently they also came across the writings from the book of the Law in regards to the Passover Feast for there was a huge movement to observe it.
- It is also revealed to us that there had not been a national observance of the Passover Feast for over four-hundred years since the time of the judges. This was simply not acceptable in the eyes of the Lord and Josiah.

Remember the Passover?

- It was the night of the last plague in Egypt, the death of the firstborn. Each Jewish household was to slay a lamb and serve it as a meal. They were not to break any bones of the sacrifice; it had to be eaten that night with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. They had to eat it with their loins girded, their shoes on and their staff in hand, for come morning it would be time to head out.
- The blood of the lamb was to be smeared on the doorposts of each house so that the Lord might Passover that home and preserve the life of the firstborn. God was carrying out judgment on a nation that evening and offered protection for the Jews IF they would follow the direction of the Passover.

Exod 12:12-14 'For I will go through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike down all the first-born in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments-- I am the LORD. 13 'And the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live; and when I see the blood I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy {you} when I strike the land of Egypt. 14 'Now this day will be a memorial to you, and you shall celebrate it {as} a feast to the LORD; throughout your generations you are to celebrate it {as} a permanent ordinance.

- For four centuries they had not kept the Passover feast in the way that they needed to. 2 Chr 35:18 more specifically states “...there had not been celebrated a Passover like it in Israel since the days of Samuel the prophet.” They had fallen so far away from the LORD that they could not see the significance of how that defined them as a people. This feast was a memorial of their deliverance from enslavement to Egypt and the sins they embraced there.
- Perhaps that was the motivation behind the actions of Josiah, for that would be the largest Passover feast for quite some time. 2 Chr 35:7 says “...Josiah contributed to the lay people, to all who were present, flocks of lambs and kids, all for the Passover offerings, numbering 30,000 plus 3,000 bulls; these were from the king's possessions.” There were many other thousands of donated animals for this event from others.
- Josiah made it a national event, making sure all the people were involved. It was because of this that God was going to pass over judgment on the nation during this time and for these people. Most definitely the judgment on the nation was coming, but their actions made a difference for them in that moment of time. II Ki 23:26 However, the LORD did not turn from the fierceness of His great wrath with which His anger burned against Judah, because of all the provocations with which Manasseh had provoked Him.
- This is called a rededication to what God expected from them. This is what God ultimately wants from His people, for all the faith in the world is no good if you cannot be dedicated to God in the end. That day, tens of thousands of sacrifices were made and God

The church needs to be the people of Rededication.

- There are many in the church that are trying hard to live a pure life unto the Father, for He expects us to be holy. 1 Pet 1:16 because it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."
- It is more than that for we are to live pure AND at the same time be dedicated to doing those things that He expects of us. 1Thes 5:21-22 But examine everything {carefully} hold fast to that which is good; 22 abstain from every form of evil. We have a HOLDING and Abstaining relationship with Him. Both have to be functional in order to be successful.
- You may have noticed that when couples first meet, they typically cannot get enough of each other. Hours spent on the phone, flowers and chocolates, dinners and movies, walks in the park and bike rides. Then the kids come along, crying and demanding attention from the mom. Dad is busy with sports or projects. People grow apart and there seems to be a lack of DEDICATION of time like there was in the beginning. If that couple is not careful, the marriage can grow cold and it could be dissolved. This is why they have a rededication in order to return back to where they were. The definition of REDEDICATION is to dedicate once again to how it should have been in the beginning.
- The same thing can happen in or relationship with God. Rev 2:4 Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love. (NIV) Do you remember when you were first baptized and the fire you had to carry out the Lord's work? You told your friends and relatives about your decision. You invited them to church

- and over for fellowship. Remember how dedicated you were to doing things in the church, from sharing the gospel all the way to helping out whenever you could?
- Then something might have happened. Maybe it was that new job or all the bills that entered the picture? Perhaps you had some difficulties in the marriage or family that pulled you away? Maybe it was sin or sickness? Maybe your schedule became so busy that you have not had the time? If you had dedication before

What can I do to be rededicated?

1. Rededicate yourself by being involved in the upcoming ministries.

As we will begin to reveal in the next lesson, there are many new ministries that will be coming to you shortly. These ministries are going to function like octane on a fire for those who seek to be rededicated to Christ. Besides that, there are many other ministries that will come from those and from you. Most of all, YOU are the key to the rededication process. REDEDICATE!

2. Rededicate yourself to giving, prayer and fasting.

To the Jew in Jesus' day there were three primary forms of righteousness that was to be practiced by the followers of God, giving, prayer and fasting.

- Matt 6:2-16 "When therefore you give alms..."
- Matt 6:5 "And when you pray..."
- Matt 6:16 "And whenever you fast..."

How has your giving been lately? How has your prayer life been going? How is that fasting working out in your life? Was it better in the past than it is today?

REDEDICATE!

3. Rededicate your family to the work of the church.

Remember what it was like when God blessed you with that spouse? Remember how you wanted that church wedding with the fancy preacher, pews, bible and Christians? You wanted God in that marriage! Remember when you found out that you found out that you were pregnant with that child? Remember how you let the church family know about it and we all prayed and celebrated with you? Do you remember when those children were first born and you came to church with them to show everyone? Let me ask, "Where is that spouse and where are your children?" Is it not time for worship, Bible camp, Bible classes, youth activities, small home group studies, work days, hospital visits and marriage seminars? Is it time to REDEDICATE?

How can we ever expect to be a blessing to God if we are not going dedicated to Him? We must REDEDICATE ourselves to Him on a daily basis, for we are always at risk of falling into inactivity if we do not. If everyone within the sound of my voice were to REDEDICATE themselves unto God this week in the area of our lives that need it, we would be making a huge difference for the kingdom of God.

IN CLOSING: Josiah had a heart for God and sought Him out and because of it there was a difference made in many lives. He went through a process of Restoration, Re-education, Repentance and Rededication. I beg that we do the same as we approach the ministry unveiling next week, for if we do, there will be great blessing from God our Father.