

HEARING THE WORD: RESPONDING TO ITS MESSAGE

2 CHRONICLES 34:1-33

Read This First

The Word of God requires a response. By studying King Josiah, we gain insight into what it means to be a hearer *and* a doer of the Word. Although this lesson focuses on the passage of Scripture from 2 Chronicles 34, a parallel account can be found in 2 Kings 22-23.

Relate to It

Open with a Kid President video clip from YouTube. (i.e. "20 Things We Should Say More" or "A Pep Talk from Kid President")

Can you think of words of wisdom you've heard from kids?

Reflect on It

Josiah was a "Kid President" of sorts. Let's talk about what we learned from 2 Chronicles 34 regarding his reign.

1. Josiah's Reign

Discuss Josiah's heritage -- Very bad. Evil father and grandfather.

What happened at each of the following stages of his reign:

- 8 years old -- he became king
- 16 years old -- began to seek God
- 20 years old -- began to purge Judah/Jerusalem of the high places
- 26 years old -- began to repair the temple -- found the Book of the Law

What About You? What was your heritage like? Whose responsibility is it for you to seek the Lord?

2. Josiah's Reasons

What does it mean to seek the Lord?

seek -- to search out; put forth effort!

Cross-References regarding whole-hearted effort: Deut. 4:29; Ps. 119:2; Prov. 8:17; Heb. 11:6

Who were some of Josiah's influencers?

Hilkiah? Jer. 2:8; Jeremiah? Jer. 29:13; Zephaniah? Zeph. 1:4-6; 2:1-3

What About You? Who influences you? Who are you influencing?

"Father, make me a crisis man. Bring those I contact to a decision. Let me not be a milepost on a single road; make me a fork, that men must turn one way or another on facing Christ in me." -- Jim Elliot, Sept. 19, 1948 (Jim Elliot, *The Journals of Jim Elliot* (Grand Rapids: Revell, 2002), 83.)

3. Josiah's Response

Once Josiah was confronted with the words from the Book of the Law, he responded in several ways. Together, list out his response.

tender heart; humbled himself; tore robes; wept; gathered everyone to the house of the Lord; read the Book of the Law in their hearing; made a covenant to follow with whole heart; made those present join him; took away abominations; made everyone serve God

What About You? Are you "all in" like Josiah was?

Read 2 Chronicles 16:9a (preferably in the NIV).

4. Josiah's Reforms

List together some of the reforms Josiah instituted in Judah.

- cleaned up Temple
- tore down altars
- burned bones of false priests on altar (fulfilling a 300 year old prophecy -- see 1 Kings 13:1-2 / 2 Kings 23:16-17)
- reinstated the Passover (according to the Word of Moses; in the 18th year...same year!)

What About You? Are you a hearer *and* a doer? (Luke 6:46-49)

Remember It

If your group is larger than six, break down into smaller groups (no more than five or six in one group.) Then do the following:

1. Pair up so you can say your memory verses to one another. Explain why you chose that particular verse.
2. What area(s), specifically, are you struggling to be "all in"? Share with a prayer partner and pray for one another.