



## Lesson 8: Too Young to Lead? (2 Chron. 34)

It's easy to suppose that making an impact in the world is something for those who are older. That if the Lord did happen to have big plans for your life, those plans are on hold until adulthood. But, throughout the pages of Scripture the Lord's greatest victories are led by young \_\_\_\_\_.

- Jeremiah was probably only \_\_\_ years old when God called him.
- Samuel was only \_\_\_ years old when the Lord spoke to him.
- The life of Daniel proves teenagers can do more than just survive in ministry – they can THRIVE!
- Even the Lord's mother (Mary) was just \_\_\_ years old when God called her.

We could go on and on with examples of teenagers in the Bible that God used. The point is this: God uses teenagers! He used teenagers in the Bible days and he still uses teenagers today.

Here in the end of 2 Chronicles we read about a teenager named \_\_\_\_\_ who led his nation Judah into its last great revival. Too young to lead? It has always been God's plan to use teenagers to \_\_\_\_\_ move forward His mission on earth.

## JOSIAH \_\_\_\_\_ GOD – YOU CAN TOO!

At a certain point Josiah made a decision to seek the God of His fathers. The text makes note that this happened when he was \_\_\_\_\_ years old.

### A. Seek the Lord at an \_\_\_\_\_ age (34:3a)

That Josiah *"while he was yet young"* began to seek the Lord is a compelling fact; it provides an example to the young and incentive to those who would stand up in their day. Solomon who wasted most of his life in folly, looked back on his youth and advised teens this way: *"Remember your creator in the days of your youth"* (Ecc. 12:1)

### B. Stay on \_\_\_\_\_ (34:2)

Josiah *"did not turn to the right or to the left."* Josiah had, as you will have, many opportunities to turn aside to the right or left, but he didn't do that. He obeyed God's Word.

## JOSIAH \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ – YOU CAN TOO!

Josiah was swimming upstream in a big way but he was willing to stand alone for what he knew was just and right.

### A. The obstacle of his \_\_\_\_\_

There were probably those who laughed off Josiah's drastic changes as the folly of youth – a little guy with a big plan. But Josiah had heard the Lord's voice and carried on regardless of what anyone else did or said.

### B. The obstacle of his \_\_\_\_\_

Josiah's immediate examples were all ungodly men. His grandfather, \_\_\_\_\_, ruled for 55 years, and led a most disgusting and vile life. His father, \_\_\_\_\_, was assassinated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of his reign.

### C. The obstacle of the \_\_\_\_\_

When you read verses 3-7 you begin to see what Josiah was up against. Although the people in his kingdom claim to be followers of the one true God, they had incorporated all sorts of worldly practices into their worship.

## JOSIAH \_\_\_\_\_ THE PROCESS – YOU CAN TOO!

The thing you continue to see in this passage is the thoroughness of Josiah's house cleaning.

### A. \_\_\_\_\_ the Word (34:31-32)

It's remarkable to think but the Book of the Law had been lost in the \_\_\_\_\_! That would be like losing the Bible in the church building and not missing it for years. When it was discovered Josiah's first reaction was to have it read.

### B. \_\_\_\_\_ the Word (34:31-32)

It's to Josiah's credit that he desired to hear what the book said, and when he heard it read, he was smitten with fear and grief. He stood up and made a public proclamation that he would follow the Words of God.

How people respond to God's Word is a good indication of their spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ and the strength of their \_\_\_\_\_ to please the Lord.

## CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

At age 16 King Josiah stood up and began to make a difference! As such, Josiah became an example to all those who would make a difference in corrupt culture. Like Josiah, though you live in an evil day, you see God work through you if you will \_\_\_\_\_ Him and \_\_\_\_\_ Him.