

of our ancestors we would never have killed the prophets. Jesus said you are lying, you are being hypocritical for you would have done exactly the same and kill the prophets.

He said the reason being that those who were the murderers of the prophets you call your ancestors. He challenged them by saying but why do you call yourself after the ancestors who killed the prophets rather call your ancestors the prophets. It shows that you have the same heart, you would have David.

So God doesn't count Josiah's father or grandfather wicked men who belong to hell. He says his father was David. So don't identify yourself with others dead or alive who refuse to walk with God.

Seek rather the heroes of God those who are true men of God and call them your forefathers. Today it's commonplace to find young people even Christians who say well how can I be a real Christian after all I'm surrounded by all this and they learn their lifestyle from the others around them instead of choosing men of God and the ironical thing is that even their parents will follow the wickedness which their children do. So Josiah at the age of eight he grew up as a king who feared the Lord.

He grew up like that he continued in that way. When he was 16 he sought God in a very deep way. At the age of 26 he brought about a reformation turn things upside down even though he had already been doing things like that since the age of eight but there was a new reformation and new changing of things at the age of 26.

One has to ask the question that this boy should be of this sort and grow up in this manner where did he obtain his strength and his uprightness in the Lord how did he get it? He listened to the Word of God. You'd hear the word of the Lord keep it and do it. Now I still will be looking at that in depth for these are just words of was to be cleansed for it had become dusty and old and unused and he sent for the prophets and the priests and they had to come and clean the temple.

Even the temple money had become decayed and wasn't used anymore and as they were busy cleaning the temple they found under a pile of rubble the Word of God and he said read it. But let's rather continue with our text. So this boy King though he didn't know his grandfather and he only knew his father and grandfather who were wicked he didn't know his great-grandfather but God said nevertheless this boy takes after his father David.

For these two were like flesh of the same flesh bone of the same bone doing the same thing. Both of them David and Josiah had communion with God. They would speak to God the Lord would speak to them they would listen and that's where the Lord pronounced regarding them that these are men with whom I'm well pleased.

With both of them if they notice something in the temple in the house of God which was wrong they would bring about changes immediately also they were zealously committed to these changes if there was something which needed change they did it instantly with enthusiasm with the fire of the Lord. Also they were immediate in their obedience to God they never wasted time. Even though other kings had walked along an evil path but these two said no this is the way we go.

So this boy was exposed to God's dealing from an early age in the midst of an era of darkness and wickedness all around him he stood up and said no this is not the way to go. This young boy was used of the Lord there's nobody too young you might say I'm too young or I'm too old I cannot be used by God no whoever is available to God will be used by the Lord so if you just sit there and say circumstances are

beyond control it's because of you that's why things are going rotten around you. You have a direct connection to what goes on around you if things are bad sin is being eaten around you there's wickedness that prevails then you are the cause this choir if they are alive and full of spiritual power then all will live.

If you find yourself surrounded by evil even in the congregation if you become alive it'll make the others around you to be alive. Even at the college if things go wrong those who are in leadership there those who are meant to be alive are not alive. Even if it's just a student it's because of you you're not what you're supposed to be.

Even at school in your girl's dormitory if things go wrong about you it's because you're not alive spiritually there will be thorough change everything is turned around if you are alive spiritually the same as you boys at the school dormitory things will be different if you become different. It started with Josiah listen to what the Lord says because your heart was tender and you humbled yourself before God when you heard his words against this place and against his inhabitants and you humbled yourself before me and you tore your clothes and wept before me I also have heard you says the Lord. If the Lord had to speak today just about you could he say something similar to that.

The Lord seeks one through whom he can work through whom he can display his power. I think back of Gideon. Just recently there was a certain celebration quite far from here and I spoke about the meaning the Hebrew meaning of Gideon.

Gideon meaning the tree feller the one who cuts down large trees indicating one who is a mighty hero and that's what I said we need to be that mighty heroes of God. The Lord worked firstly in Gideon. When the Lord had worked in Gideon's life he began to work in the lives of others.

He said Gideon your mother has a large your father has a large pole an Asherah pole in worship of that female that goddess. Things need action needs to be taken. One night he got his friends together and they destroyed that idol and burnt it.

When the people got up that morning the goddess was gone and the people were furious. Fingers were pointed at the son of whoever saying this is Gideon and so they determined that he should be So Gideon too was in the midst of a crooked generation a murderous generation. So they went to Gideon's father and they said bring him out he's the one Gideon is the one responsible for this crime.

He is the one who has taken down this goddess and burnt it he is the one who's cut down Baal. The Lord had started working in Gideon's father's life he didn't turn on his son and say how dare you do this the whole community is against us. He answered with wisdom saying well if these gods the Asherah and Baal have been cut down and you want to attack Gideon for doing kill him for doing it why not the gods themselves if they be deities let them The Lord is well able to defend you if you stand on his side he can defend you don't fall into fear and be a coward and say I'm so scared I'm afraid lest they pay their revenge on me they might try and shoot me well the Lord can control even that that the bullet kills them instead of you.

The Lord used Gideon and just a handful of men just 300 men to defeat a whole nation the Lord doesn't need quantity he can do it with just two or three. The Lord said to Gideon you've got too many warriors with you I can't work with so many let those who want to go home go home. The Lord said to Gideon you've got too many warriors with you I can't work with so many let those who want to go home go home.

10,000 of them returned home then the Lord said there's still too many Gideon take them to the river where I'll test them those that lay on their bellies to drink the water were sent back home but those who drank water like a dog those were alert and sharp just 300 of them the Lord used them. Josiah was of like spirit a zeal for the Lord if he noticed any foreign gods he would say let them be chopped down. When he noticed things were in a mess in the temple he immediately set about to have things changed that was before he had discovered the scriptures the scrolls for he had the Lord in his heart wonderful are those people who have God in their hearts.

Josiah then commanded that the temple should be thoroughly cleansed all the rubbish all the dirt. If you want the Lord to work in those around you to use you as an instrument to reach those around you then be cleansed let the Lord cleanse you for you are a temple cleanse you even in your body what have your hands your eyes your thoughts being used for let it be thoroughly cleansed. Let me illustrate your home being like your temple.

Have you been into your home and searched through your home your books and things and checked out if something is not glorifying to God then it's a curse to your family to your home let it be taken out let it be burnt even if it's a schoolbook then tear out the wrong places get rid of it. If you want the Lord to work in those around you to use you as an instrument to reach those around you. Search your home you go through things if your wife is blunt you as a husband do it should the husband be blunt you wife deal with it tear out get rid of what is wrong.

If your husband threatens you with divorce let him do as he will rather that he does that and you go to heaven and probably he won't divorce you he'll repent. Any defiled thing any thing that's wicked let it be removed from your home maybe you saying Lord bless our home but no blessing comes upon it instead it's one mess after the other it might be that you have some secret fetish that you keep there some occult object whatever it might be let it be cleansed. Pray and ask the Lord what to do.

Maybe you say but my husband is the obstacle well pray seek the Lord's wisdom otherwise you are weakening yourself. So look in the cupboards under the beds there are many things hidden in homes. Some men and even children keep pornographic things unclean things children who have that that spirit and instinct of a dog they will keep things like that If you're seeking for revival and you're allowing defiled things you are playing around out with those things and secondly also in yourself in you the temple of God see if there are defiled things in you don't stay with these things even if you're a missionary here out of it outside the gate outside the camp.

We don't need you here. What's the matter? You're in the wrong place. Go to the place where the Son of Peace is.

This was the spirit of Josiah who zealously zealously commanded them to clean the temple and eventually they discovered the words of the Lord the scriptures and it says Josiah was shocked. He was frightened. He humbled himself.

He was cast down low because of the holiness of God. Immediately he assembled all the inhabitants and said this is how things have to go. Why? Why? Because the Lord said of him his heart was tender.

Is your heart tender or is it hard? And he sincerely humbled himself before the Lord. Don't just humble yourself before people and bowing and scraping before them because then it can be hypocritical. You may weep and mourn because you're caught red-handed not because you're truly sorrowful.

Josiah said these things must be done and he determined that it should be done in his day. He said how can this happen while I'm alive? If I'm dead it might happen but not while I am here. So firstly he directed things at himself secondly the temple and thirdly the inhabitants.

The king tore his own clothes. The Bible says that God said he wept before him. God said I've heard you.

Are you of like spirit? Are you going forward and there's always more maturity, a proof of going forward? At eight years of age we've seen him at 16 at 26 always taking a new step forward. And the Lord spoke about what he felt regarding him. What does God say about you? If you have a tender heart you'll repent.

You'll admit that you were being pharisaical. You'll admit that you're being hypocritical before people. Can God say you're a co-worker together with me? God is at work and so are you doing his work.

Let's stop messing around. Let's make decisions. Time is over for messing around, taking it easy and bluffing.

You've got into a relationship with the devil. You're his worker. Listen to this the Lord.

The king stood in his place and made a covenant before the Lord to follow the Lord and keep his commandments. He made an agreement with God, a covenant. He stood in that place saying Lord from now on I make a covenant to obey you to the end and to keep your testimonies and your commandments and your statutes with all my heart and with all my soul.

To perform the words of the covenant that were written in this book. This is a hero. When he read the Bible and was convicted of sin, right there and then he made his decision.

He said Lord right now I make this covenant with you to obey you and all your commands right to the end. Having made that covenant he said all those found in Jerusalem and of the tribe of Benjamin let them do likewise. And so the inhabitants of Jerusalem did according to the covenant of God, the God of their fathers.

I often preach and there's a book written overseas with the title saying revival begins with you and that is displayed in this King Josiah. Revival began with him, started with sin in himself and continued to deal with the sins of others. Then in verse 33, thus Josiah removed all the abominations from all the country that belonged to the children of Israel.

This Josiah removed the abominations for these detestable things, even if they are things that you do secretly, they are an abomination before God. And made all who are present in Israel diligently serve the Lord their God. All his days they did not depart from following the Lord God of their fathers.

In another translation it says that the people did not veer to the left or the right all the days of their lives. Have you made a covenant with God? Week after week you get preached to every Sunday, you hear from this book. Have you ever though made an agreement, a covenant with God that you will obey what he says? Let's stand to our feet.

I invite you who haven't made this covenant with God come to the front here. That covenant with the Lord, in other words, agree with him that all those things that are detestable before the Lord you will remove and deal with. In you, in the temple and around you in the world.

If you haven't made that covenant I may give you the opportunity to come forward, make that covenant before the Lord. Lord we've heard of this child who was appointed as king at only 8 years of age. Did not follow in the ways of his father and grandfather.

Went out of that direction and chose specifically to serve the Lord of Lords. The creator of heaven and earth. Saying I don't want to be like other children or other kings.

I want to be like my heavenly father. Lord here are your souls. Making that covenant to serve you, to turn away from your sins.

To obey your commandments, your statutes right to live. Lord write the name of each and everyone who bowed here before us in the front. Record them Lord as you recorded Josiah.

That on this day, the 8th of February 2004, I have made my covenant with God. Till that day when I see you, when you read the books before heaven and earth. When you say he who is unashamed of me, I will never be ashamed of him.

Lord record them. Record this contract as they sign in humbling themselves before you. Write down Lord and sign to this day, this covenant with you.

That you would be the witness to this.

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