

Sunday - January 10, 2021

# Reclaiming the Word

Dr. Jim Cooley, First Baptist Birmingham

Today's Scripture: II Kings 22:8-11

<sup>8</sup> Then Hilkiah the high priest said to Shaphan the scribe, "I have found the Book of the Law in the house of the Lord." And Hilkiah gave the book to Shaphan, and he read it. <sup>9</sup> So Shaphan the scribe went to the king, bringing the king word, saying, "Your servants have gathered the money that was found in the house, and have delivered it into the hand of those who do the work, who oversee the house of the Lord." <sup>10</sup> Then Shaphan the scribe showed the king, saying, "Hilkiah the priest has given me a book." And Shaphan read it before the king.

<sup>11</sup> Now it happened, when the king heard the words of the Book of the Law, that he tore his clothes.

## **JOSIAH BECAME KING DURING A CRITICAL TIME IN THE NATION OF JUDAH**

- It was a nation that had lost its way
- Everyone did what he or she thought was right
- They forgot all about what it meant to obey and serve the Lord
- They turned away from God's Word, neglected God's Word and ultimately forgot God's Word

## **BY THE TIME JOSIAH BECAME KING, IT SEEMED AS THOUGH JUDAH HAD PASSED THE POINT OF NO RETURN**

- The nation was in chaos; everything seemed to be a matter of every man for himself
- The Lord had placed a desire in Josiah's heart; he was determined to turn his people back to the Lord.
- *"He did not turn aside to the right hand or to the left." II Kings 22:2*

## **JOSIAH PLANNED TO RESTORE THE HOUSE OF THE LORD**

- Josiah believed rebuilding the House of God was a major step in putting God back where He belonged in Judah
- *"I have found the Book of the Law in the house of the Lord." II Kings 22:8*

- For the first time in his life, Josiah heard the words of Scripture

## THE WORD OF GOD TRANSFORMED JOSIAH'S LIFE

- He Received the Word
  - *"Then Shaphan the scribe showed the king, saying, 'Hilkiah the priest has given me a book.' And Shaphan read it before the king." II Kings 22:10*
- He Responded to the Word
  - *"Now it happened, when the king heard the words of the Book of the Law, that he tore his clothes." II Kings 22:11*
- He Acted in Obedience to the Word
  - *"Then the king stood by a pillar and made a covenant before the Lord, to follow the Lord and to keep His commandments and his testimonies and His statutes with all his heart and all his soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book." II Kings 23:3*
- He Led Others to Follow the Word
  - *"And all the people took a stand for this covenant." II Kings 23:3*

## JOSIAH BECAME A SPIRITUAL GIANT

- *"Now before him there was no king like him, who turned to the Lord with all his heart, with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the Law of Moses; nor after him did any arise like him." II Kings 23:25*
- He let the Word have It's way in his life

## GOD IS CALLING YOU TO RADICAL TRANSFORMATION

- Receive the Word
  - Open your eyes and open your heart
- Respond to the Word
  - If the Bible says it, do it
- Act in Obedience to the Word
  - Stop asking what you want to do, and ask what God wants you to do
- Lead Others to Know the Lord and Follow the Word
  - By your example
  - Through Intentional Obedience
  - Beginning at Home
  - Extending to the World

