

Josiah: Seeking the Lord

2 Chronicles 34:1-3

According to the timeline in 2 Chronicles 35:24-36:7, Josiah's death (in battle) occurred 11 years and 3 months before God's severe judgment fell upon the nation of Judah (and Israel). In 2 Chronicles 34:28, the Lord had promised Josiah that he would not personally see the devastating judgment that would fall upon his kingdom.

For those of us who believe that our nation is also under the judgment of God, Josiah's example of seeking the Lord is instructive. Romans 15:4 reminds us, *"For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope."*

The Lord's work in the life of young Josiah encourages us to draw near to God, knowing that He will draw near to us (James 4:8). Even if you assume that you will pass away before severe judgment falls upon our nation, you ought to consider the generation to come (Psalm 78:4). In a very real sense, Josiah's example showed disobedient Israel how to draw near to God – ultimately leading to their return to the land seventy years later! Would you be willing to lead the next generation by example: "to become what you want them to be" in the sight of the Lord?

How did young Josiah become such a good example?

2 Chronicles 34:2 records, *"And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the ways of David his father, and declined neither to the right hand, nor to the left."* How did he do that?

Josiah: Seeking the Lord, 2 Chronicles 34:1-3

Attitude: Josiah set his heart to seek the Lord. 34:2-3

Seek – [TWOT] "to seek with care, inquire"

How and why should we apply our hearts to this example?

- **Reason** - Why: We can seek the Lord because Jesus Christ calls us to be like Him. Isaiah 50:4-5 (Servant Song), Galatians 2:20

Follow Him: John 10:27, 1 Corinthians 11:1

- **Response** - How: Consider Psalm 9:10, Hebrews 11:6

Then, put that attitude in practice. Ezra 7:10

Actions: Josiah set his heart to serve the Lord. 34:3b

- This can take time. It's progressive.
- This comes from the heart. It's responsive.
- This is war. It's combative.
- This is over things within your control. It's proactive.
- Don't make provision for the flesh. Romans 13:12-14
- Put on the armor of God. Ephesians 6:12-18
- Go to war against your evil desires. 1 Peter 2:11
- Keep yourselves from idols. 1 John 5:21