



Stuff They Didn't Teach Me In Sunday School



Episode 088 - Judah's Last Gasp (2 Kings 22)

Josiah, like his great-grandfather Hezekiah, set out to cleanse the temple from filth. But while they were doing their cleaning the priests came across Moses' Book of the Law, which warned of God's wrath against the unfaithfulness of Judah. Consulting a prophetess, they learned that Judah was doomed to destruction because of Manasseh's sin (2 Kings 22:16-20).

- Why would Josiah go to the effort to cleanse the temple and the land and make a covenant with the people if he knew the nation was doomed anyway?
- If you learned you only had a few months to live what changes would you make in your daily life? What would you keep the same?

Josiah didn't just cleanse the temple; he went throughout the land of Israel removing all the idols and objects of false worship. These included the two golden calves that Jeroboam, the first king of the northern kingdom Israel, had built. Later, Jesus would travel through these same towns proclaiming the Kingdom of God, casting out unclean demons and calling the people of Israel back to their God.

- How does God move through our communities and country today cleaning away Satan's filth and calling people back to Himself?
- Discuss how you can be Christ's spokesman in every area of your life (home, work, school, church, etc.)

Probably Josiah's greatest claim to fame was restoring the Passover celebration at the temple in Jerusalem. This great festival celebrated God delivering Israel from slavery in Egypt through the Ten Plagues. We read in 2 Kings 23:22, "For no such Passover had been kept since the days of the judges who judged Israel, or during all the days of the kings of Israel or of the kings of Judah." Of course, Jesus celebrated the greatest Passover when He stepped forward as the Passover Lamb who took on Himself the sins of the world and died on the cross to save us all from the angel of death.

- How do you celebrate Christ's great sacrifice on the cross that freed you from God's wrath forever?
- What things have gotten in the way of celebrating it as you should?

Josiah's wonderful reforms died when he was killed in battle trying to stop Egypt. Pharaoh was on his way to help what was left of the Assyrian army, which was fighting against the Babylonians who had destroyed the Assyrian capital of Nineveh in 612 B.C.

- What can you do to help the Kingdom of Christ continue to grow after you die?
- Why might our faithful parenting be the most important contribution we make to the future of Christ's Church?