

The Lost Word

TEXT: 2 Kings 22:8-13

INTRODUCTION:

- A. JOSIAH BECAME KING OF JUDAH WHEN HE WAS 8.
1. A time of rebellion and idolatry of the worst sort.
 2. Josiah establishes a great restoration movement (**2 Chron 34:1-19**).
 - a. At age sixteen he began to seek the God of his father (**vs. 3**).
 - b. At age 20 he purged Judah of its idols (**vs. 3-7**). – and Israel's.
 - c. At age 26 he restores the temple. (**vs. 8-21**).
 3. Hilkiah finds the book of the law, given by Moses.
 - a. Contains blessings and curses.
 - b. Josiah rents his clothes and weeps because they had not kept the law.
 4. Huldah's prophecy (**2 Kings 22:14-20**). Josiah's death – Pharaoh-neco.
- B. FINDING THE BOOK WAS A TURNING POINT FOR THE NATION.
1. God's law for them
 2. The pattern for their worship and their lives.
 3. It had been lost for two and a half generations. Nobody read it!
- C. GOD'S WORD IS LOST TO MANY TODAY, IN & OUT OF THE CHURCH.
- D. IS IT LOST TO US?

I. THE IMPORTANCE OF THE WORD.

- A. WHAT IS ITS SOURCE?
1. God speaks to us through Jesus (**Heb. 1:1-2**).
 2. Jesus speaks through the Holy Spirit (**John 16:12-13**).
 3. The Holy Spirit speaks through the apostles (**Eph. 3:3-5**).
 4. They spoke, but they are now dead. They speak then through what they wrote (**1 Cor. 2:12-13; Eph. 3:3-4**).
 5. To reject the word is to reject God.
- B. WHAT IS ITS PURPOSE?
1. The Word, as represented in the N. T., is called the Gospel (**1 Pet. 1:25**).
 2. God's instrument of our salvation (**Rom. 1:16-17; James 1:21**).
 - a. It's power is in the information it contains (**Rom. 1:17**).
 - b. It tells about Jesus (**1 Cor. 15:1, 3**).
 - c. It tells what we must do (**Titus 2:11-12; 2 Tim. 3:16-17**).
 - d. A **pattern** for **life** and **worship** (**2 Tim. 2:13**).
OUR INSTRUCTION MANUEL.
- C. BUT IT MUST BE **BELIEVED** (**Rom. 1:16; 10:13-14**).
- D. AND IT MUST BE **OBEYED** (**James 1:22-25**).
- E. DAVID AND THE WORD (**Psa. 1:2-3; 19:7-11; 119:11, 81, 89, 97-105, 172**).

II. HOW IS THE WORD OF GOD LOST? BIBLES EVERYWHERE!

- A. LOST TO UNBELIEVERS.
1. **Acts 26:6-8**. Seems incredible to some.
 2. Doesn't fit the agendas of others (**John 5:38-40; 11:47-48**).
 3. Doesn't appeal to human reasoning (**1 Cor. 1:21-23; Eph. 4:17-20**).
 4. Doesn't allow submission to earthly passions (**Rom. 1:28-32**).
 5. The tragedy of human teaching (**Matt. 15:13-14**).
- B. LOST TO MANY CHRISTIANS.
1. Choked out (**Luke 8:14**). "Too many irons" (**Psa. 1:2**).
 2. Offended by it (**Matt. 15:12; Gal. 4:16**).
 3. Intolerance of the teachings (**2 Tim. 4:3-4; Isa. 30:9-11; Jer. 5:30-31**).
 4. Human philosophies allowed to prevail (**Col. 2:8; Acts 20:29-30; 2 Pet. 2:1-2**).
 5. A failure to see its importance (**James 1:18, 21-22**).
 6. Indifference (**Heb. 2:1-3; 5:12**).
 7. The tragedy of God's people (**Heb. 4:6**).

CONCLUSION:

- A. IT IS THROUGH THE WORD WE HAVE FAITH (**Rom. 10:17; John 20:30-31**).
- B. DON'T LET IT BE LOST ON YOU.