



# **Lights and Perfection, Inc.**

**Go and make disciples!**

E-votional 71

## **Responding to the Word**

2Kings 22:11 & 18-19 (ESV)

*(11) When the king heard the words of the Book of the Law, he tore his clothes.*

*(18-19) But to the king of Judah, who sent you to inquire of the LORD, thus shall you say to him, Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Regarding the words that you have heard, because your heart was penitent, and you humbled yourself before the LORD, when you heard how I spoke against this place and against its inhabitants, that they should become a desolation and a curse, and you have torn your clothes and wept before me, I also have heard you, declares the LORD.*

2Kings 23:1-4 (ESV)

*Then the king sent, and all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem were gathered to him. And the king went up to the house of the LORD, and with him all the men of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem and the priests and the prophets, all the people, both small and great. And he read in their hearing all the words of the Book of the Covenant that had been found in the house of the LORD. And the king stood by the pillar and made a covenant before the LORD, to walk after 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. And all the people joined in the covenant. And the king commanded Hilkiah the high priest and the priests of the second order and the keepers of the threshold to bring out of the temple of the LORD all the vessels made for Baal, for Asherah, and for all the host of heaven. He burned them outside Jerusalem in the fields of the Kidron and carried their ashes to Bethel.*

These passages of Scripture detail the life of a very young King (around 26 years old at the time of this specific situation) named Josiah in Jerusalem. At a certain point in his reign, he sent Shaphan a scribe to the Temple to inquire of the priests about how much money was in the treasury because he wanted it brought to those who would make some repairs to it. When Shaphan got there according to

2 Kings 22:8 Hilkiah the priest had found the Book of the Law and gave it to him and he read it. When Shaphan returned to King Josiah he also brought word that he made sure the money got to those doing the work and also that Hilkiah had given him a book. Next, Shaphan read it before the King.

Immediately, upon hearing the Book of the Law being read, King Josiah tore his clothes and sent several people to inquire of the Lord concerning the words of the Book of the Law, namely in this case that the wrath of the Lord had been aroused because of the evil kings in past generations. Next, after inquiring of the Lord a prophetess brought back the word of the Lord concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

Now in this discourse that the prophetess gave the Lord said about King Josiah and his response to the reading of the Word that since he humbled himself and his heart was tender even after hearing the Word of the Lord about the judgment on the land that God has also heard him. Praise the Lord! This was preceded by a promise that Josiah would not see this wrath in his generation.

However, the response to the word gets better by Josiah and the people. In the next chapter, the King gathered all the elders of the people along with prophets and priests, those small and great in the land, and read the Book of the Law in their hearing. Next, he made a covenant before the Lord to follow His commandments and His testimonies with all of his heart and all of his soul. Everyone there took a stand as well and agreed to the covenant.

The next part of their response was something that really hit home and was proof of their fresh covenant with the Lord and His Word. This they did, when they carried out of the Temple all of the articles that were dedicated to idols and the worship of them and burned them outside of the Temple. Now, today, we are the Temple of God and are to be a habitation of the Holy Spirit. Let the reader understand.

This example was not secluded to Old Testament examples in its severity. No, I tell you this has an exact illustration found in the New Testament as well in Acts 19:18-20 (ESV)

*Also, many of those who were now believers came, confessing and divulging their practices. And a number of those who had practiced magic arts brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted the value of them and found it came to fifty thousand pieces of silver. So the word of the Lord continued to increase and prevail mightily.*

Wow! Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me. I wonder, have we yet come to the point in our walks where we are again ready to

hear the Word of the Lord? Or has our sacred cows gotten in the way? We who hold to the covenant of grace and mercy must also keep in step with it through the Holy Spirit of God. The response to the word that I have seen in both the Old and New Testaments was so powerful that it caused people to stop making excuses for their sin and idolatry in an instant and just commit. Today, however, in some places of worship we instead teach that since God knows your heart, it's ok to sin and have idols. We may not just come right out and say it, but somehow we have accepted this. We have seemingly grown desensitized to the Word of the Lord and no longer see certain things as idol worship. But anything that takes the place of God in our lives is in fact idol worship.

The purpose of this message is to show what revival really looks like and our response to the Word of the Lord. I honestly think we need to see something like this in the here and now.

O Lord, Holy and True, how long till we see Your people awaken. Send Your Spirit and give us repentance and refreshment through Your Word. I really humbly ask Lord, that You would stir up our hearts in this nation that when we hear or read Your Word we are instantly and powerfully conformed into Your image, in Jesus name.

Brothers and Sisters, we love you more than you know and are in prayer right now for you. God bless!

In Christ's Love,  
Chris and Jeanne  
Lights and Perfection, Inc



©2020 Lights and Perfection, Inc. | 5215 Hartford Lane, Wildwood, FL 34785, US

Like Tweet

Web Version

Preferences

Forward

Unsubscribe

Powered by

