

## King Josiah – Lesson 7: How Do We Get There

**1 Joh 5:13** These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

### Did we learn our lesson? Study Questions from Lesson 6: Learning Where We Are Going

1. According to 2 Kings 22:14, who did King Josiah send to enquire of the Lord?

*Answer: Hilkiah the priest, and Ahikam, and Achbor, and Shaphan, and Asahiah.*

2. According to 2 Kings 22:14, who's council was sought to know the word of God?

*Answer: Huldah the prophetess.*

3. According to 2 Kings 22:14, where did this 'consultant' reside?

*Answer: She dwelt in Jerusalem in the college.*

4. According to 2 Kings 22:17, what is the reason for the Lord's wrath?

*Answer: Because they have forsaken me, and have burned incense unto other gods, that they might provoke me to anger with all the works of their hands.*

5. Complete the following scripture:

**Matthew 7:14** Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life.

### True / False

**False** Flesh and spirit are the same thing (JOHN 3:6 – **Flesh is flesh, spirit is spirit**)

**True** To be spiritual, you must be born again (1 COR 15:50 – **Flesh,,cannot inherit the kingdom of heaven**)

**True** God selected Jeremiah as a prophet (JER 1:7 – **I command thee**)

**False** Life's problems means God hates you (PROV 3:12 – **The LORD loveth he correcteth**)

### Extra Credit - In your opinion, how do you handle challenges?

### Lesson 7: Learning How Do We Get There

'Go the extra mile, it's never crowded" – Wayne W. Dyer, American author and self-help advocate (1940-2015)

It is not an unusual phenomenon. When one is going the same way as everyone else, it is pretty crowded. Just commute on any major highway during 'rush hour,' visit any major retail store at peak hours, or attend a professional sports event and you will witness first-hand the intense congestion as 'everyone else' with the same idea is in the flow of people. Personally, my wife does not look forward to these compacted environments, as I am defined as an 'aggressive' driver that triggers a higher state of anxiety when she is my passenger (I interpret this as her having trust issues).

It is only when you get off the 'beaten path' that this high concentration of humanity begins to diminish, and the pace becomes more civil (except for the one person that believes they found a short cut and is marauding their way through traffic).

Going the extra mile is not exactly the same – It is the mindset of doing more than what is required:

#### **Matthew 5:39-41 – The Lord encourages this behavior**

**(39)** But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.

**(40)** And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have *thy* cloke also.

**(41) And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain.**

Mistreated by the world for the Lord's sake – Don't simply allow it but seek it  
In meeting a request for help – Give more than what was asked

However, the effect is similar. As your behavior begins to depart from the majority (doing more because it magnifies the Lord), the population decreases. As one does more, when most are only doing 'just enough,' one separates themselves, even among believers.

In this lesson, King Josiah knows how to proceed, and he does what others will not.

**Where we left off:**

## **2 Kings 22:19-20 – God's message for the king reveals 'how'**

**(19)** Because thine heart was tender, and thou hast humbled thyself before the LORD, when thou heardest what I spake against this place, and against the inhabitants thereof, that they should become a desolation and a curse, and hast rent thy clothes, and wept before me; I also have heard *thee*, saith the LORD.

**(20)** Behold therefore, I will gather thee unto thy fathers, and thou shalt be gathered into thy grave in peace; and thine eyes shall not see all the evil which I will bring upon this place. And they brought the king word again.

The key to aligning with God is noted by the Lord – Humility! Anything less fuels God's wrath:

### **James 4:6 – Blessings for humility**

**(6)** Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

Where pride (putting yourself ahead of God) is more than a barrier between humanity and the Lord (It is provoking the Lord: **PROV 15:25** The LORD will destroy the house of the proud), Holding God first (placing yourself behind the Lord) is the beginning of realignment (**PROV 3:34** But he giveth grace unto the lowly).

King Josiah's heart is his witness to the Lord - God knows the heart (**1 KINGS 8:39** For thou, *even* thou only, knowest the hearts of all the children of men) and the king's humility opened the door to the Lord.

However, it was the King's actions (rent clothes/wept) that God heard and responded to. The Lord looks for a humble heart but also expects action in obedience (**1 SAM 15:22** Behold, to obey *is* better than sacrifice).

To the believer, the Lord offers this truth:

**John 14:15** *If ye love me, keep my commandments.*

Once one submits to the Lord, accepts Christ as Savior, and puts all trust of eternity in the Lord, the Lord is asking the believer to 'go the extra mile' in faith and obedience, knowing the more one submits to the Lord, the further away from the world they will become, but the actual result is to be closer to God.

### **James 4:7-8 – Seeking the Lord**

**(7)** Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

**(8)** Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse *your* hands, ye sinners; and purify *your* hearts, ye double minded.

Once one belongs to the Lord, no one can remove them (**JOHN 10:28-29** - *No man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand*), but the deceiver will continually attempt to weaken you (**2 PET 5:8**). The believer's defense is to rely on the Lord and use the whole armor of God (**EPH 6:13-18**), and the deceiver will flee, and God will draw closer to you!

With this input from the Lord, the king takes to heart that the Lord may offer a different path under the right conditions (humility / love) and the king has an idea!

## **2 Kings 23:1-2 – God’s message for the king reveals ‘how’**

**(1)** And the king sent, and they gathered unto him all the elders of Judah and of Jerusalem.

**(2)** And the king went up into the house of the LORD, and all the men of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem with him, and the priests, and the prophets, and all the people, both small and great: and he read in their ears all the words of the book of the covenant which was found in the house of the LORD.

King Josiah understands two things:

1. To have the grace of God, the people must have a change of heart (**PROV 3:34 / JAMES 4:6**) – To become humble and put God first (only then will God consider a different path)

### **Proverbs 3:5-6 – One must seek this change**

**(5)** Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

**(6)** In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

(Recall from lesson 6 **LEV 26:40-42** - If they shall confess their iniquity. . . I will remember)

### **Ezekiel 36:24-28 – The promise of a future**

**(24)** For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land.

**(25)** Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you.

**(26)** A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

**(27)** And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do *them*.

**(28)** And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God.

Ezekiel’s prophecy is for the reunited Israel in the new kingdom. However, the principle is the same – Humanity cannot have a ‘new heart’ without God (**2 COR 5:17** – In Christ...a new creature), and once the Lord has done so, it is the Spirit of God within you that makes the difference.

2. To change, the people must be educated to understand their present situation.

### **Isaiah 6:10 – If / Then**

**(10)** Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed.

The Lord tells Isaiah the ‘wisdom of the world’ will keep people from God, where ‘Spiritual understanding’ has the power to convert and heal (bring the lost back to God).

(See **PROV 4:7** – Wisdom is the principle thing)

The decision is clear – King Josiah must attempt the impossible: To reach the hearts of the children of Israel with the truth and hope for a collective change of heart that will ‘convert and heal’ the nation.

To accomplish this, the king does not delegate the task to a subordinate, but takes personal responsibility (goes the extra mile) and has assembled all (great and small – This is not for just part of the nation), and personally reads the book of the covenant to deliver the conditions of God, that each person will be presented with the truth.

To know the truth of Jesus Christ (and accept Him as Lord) transform one’s eternity (**JOHN 8:32** *The truth shall make you free*). To bring Jesus Christ to others is more than to show love – It is to go the extra mile, as you will find it is wide open with little traffic (**MATT 7:14** *Few there be that find it*)

**Next Lesson: How Do We Get There?**

## King Josiah – Lesson 6: Learning How Do We Get There?

### Study Questions

1. According to 2 Kings 22:19, what three of King Josiah's actions did the Lord recognize?

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2. According to 2 Kings 22:20, what was the Lord's promise to King Josiah?

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3. According to 2 Kings 23:1, who did King Josiah initially gather?

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4. According to 2 Kings 23:2, who was the book of the covenant read to?

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5. Complete the following scripture:

**1 Joh 5:13** These things have I \_\_\_\_\_ unto you that believe on the \_\_\_\_\_  
of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have \_\_\_\_\_ life.

### True / False

### Reference

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|---|---|--|
| T | F | God encourages the proud                 |
| T | F | The Lord expects nothing from believers  |
| T | F | Trust in the Lord and He will direct you |
| T | F | A new heart is only through God          |

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**EXTRA CREDIT** – In your opinion, how many extra miles have you travelled?

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