

Seeking Biblical Authority, Lesson 2:
Good King Josiah
2 Kings 22:8-13

Theme: Authority

Aim: To show that seeking Bible authority is a thing that pleases God as illustrated by the actions of good King Josiah.

1. The question of authority is as important in religion as in any other area of life.
2. The Jews raised the question to Jesus: "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" (Matthew 21 :23). Jesus claimed all authority, Matthew 28: 18. Paul wrote in Colossians 3:17: "And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."
3. I want to give some time to examine a case study in seeking Biblical authority.

I. It is the story of "Good" King Josiah.

A. We begin in Exodus 20:1-4.

1. The first two commandments have to do with the primacy of God.
2. To violate them is to reject God at the most basic level. .
3. But that is what the people of Judah had done!

B. We turn to Manasseh, 2 Kings 21:1-2.

1. He was the son of Hezekiah, a good, reforming king;
2. But he was the worst of the lot, 2 Kings 21 :2-7. See verse 11.
3. God's reaction? See verses 12-13.

C. Manasseh's grandson was Josiah, a good king, 2 Kings 22: 1-2.

1. Why was a good king? He repaired Temple, 22:3 – 7.
2. As they were repairing the temple, a scroll was found. But not just any scroll.
3. What happened when they found it? See verses 8-13.
4. What King Josiah did, 2 Kings 23:1-7, 21-25.

D. Two additional factors.

1. Work of Jeremiah.

- a. Jeremiah 1:1-2. (Note time)
- b. The problem stated: Jeremiah 2:11-13.
- c. The solution given: Jeremiah 6:13-16.
- d. How much influence did Jeremiah, God's spokesman have on Josiah?

2. 2 Kings 22: 18-20.

II. What is the point? What is the lesson for us today?

A. Nothing is in the Bible without purpose, Romans 15:4

1. What does God want us to learn from the story of Josiah?
2. Notice carefully what happened.
 - a. The Law, God's Word had been lost, forsaken. Time had past.
 - b. When it was found, they sought authority from it.
 - c. They examined it and restored true worship.
3. How hard was it? Did they have to let go of some things that might have been dear?
4. They had to challenge all of their notions and seek authority for what they did.

B. Jeremiah and Josiah called the people back to a written revelation from God that was several hundred years old.

1. Were they able to do it?
2. Was it a reasonable thing to do?
3. Was God pleased?
4. Do we not need to do the same? To seek Bible authority for all we do? Colossians 3: 17.
5. Can we say that to be a faithful spokesman for God, preachers today need to stand in the tradition of Jeremiah?

III. One final note.

A. Look again at 2 Kings 22:19.

1. Josiah's tender heart played a major role.
2. He, in his youth, was still able to see the need.
3. Even though he was a king, he humbled himself before God.

B. It is time for us to lay aside our own agendas and seek God's.

1. Even Jesus struggled with this ... in Gethsemane, "Not as I will, but as you will ... " Matthew 26:39.
2. We are not the authority in religion.
3. We must seek the will of God through His revealed will.
4. Can it be done?
5. Would God be pleased?
6. Is it a reasonable thing to do?

1. Let us determine to follow the example of Josiah and Jesus and do all by His will.
2. Colossians 3:17.

Michael D. Greene
Elizabethtown church of Christ