

Responsive Hearts (2 Kings 22)

Can you remember a time in your life when you were brought to a crossroads moment? A decision had to be made that you knew would impact everything. 2 Kings 22 is a crossroads moment for Josiah. After years of pursuing God the way he thinks best, this young king discovers and reads God's word. It had been lost, neglected and dismissed by previous generations, but had found in Josiah a responsive heart. What does a responsive heart look like? What does it produce?

1. A crossroads moment (2 Kings 22:1-10)

Josiah's (26 years old) in the midst of bringing reformation to the nation of Judah – extensive renovation is happening everywhere – he wants a return to the worship of Yahweh exclusively. Then 2 Kings 22:8!

Whenever we read God's word we are brought to a crossroads; to a place of decision.

2. A responsive heart (2 Kings 22:11-20)

“Repent”? = *“a change of direction”* – *“stop what you’re doing and do the opposite instead.”*

Come back to the God you've ignored, rejected or dismissed. Own up to your sin. V13 *“concerning us”*

The Word brought a clarity Josiah didn't have before. It produced a response *in* Josiah that brought out a response in God's heart *towards* Josiah.

Major attention is placed on Josiah's response. Why? It's rare. It's exactly what God wants *us* to do – to tremble at His Word. Isaiah 66:2; James 1:22-25; Psalm 119:11; 86:11

3. A king like no other (2 Kings 23:1-3; 21-25)

Josiah reads it so *they* could hear it themselves. He brings them to the source.

All of these amazing reforms lead to the “brick wall” of 23:26-27.

The nation of Israel needed *another* (greater) son of David – a king like no other. So do we.

Jesus *is* the Christ (King) - who leads his people into a new covenant through what *seems* like defeat (his death on a cross). Jesus *is* The Word made flesh – who stepped into space and time to bring a salvation and reformation that is enough.

QUESTIONS (Pray, read the passage and pick 4-5 questions to discuss. Trust the Holy Spirit to guide.)

1. How does 2 Kings 22 and 23 describe Josiah's *“responsive heart”*?
2. Why is so much attention given to Josiah's response? Can you share a time when a “book” or “reading” of God's word moved you to repentance?
3. What do we learn from Josiah's humble leadership in 2 Kings 23:1-3?
4. Why do you think Josiah continues with his reforms knowing that God is still going to bring deserved judgment on the nation of Judah?
5. An idol can be anything that takes God's place – even “good” things can become the ultimate thing to us. Is there anything God is calling you to give up or remove? Are you willing to do whatever it takes? What *will* it take?
6. Josiah's faith was legit but the nation's faith was hollow; their hearts were not *“in it.”* How do we keep from going down the same path? Is your faith “your own”? How can you tell?
7. How does Josiah's life and reforms point us to our need for Jesus? How did Jesus accomplish what Josiah could not? How does that bring us to a crossroads?
8. What does a *“responsive heart”* to Jesus look like in your life?

Ask God to give you a *responsive heart* to his Word. Pray for the faith and courage to walk it out. Celebrate the grace of God expressed in Jesus to bring the salvation and reform we all need.