

Messy People

Session 4: Josiah—Breaking Messy Family Cycles

“Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem thirty-one years. He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord and walked in the ways of his father David, not turning aside to the right or to the left.”

“In the eighth year of his reign, while he was still young, he began to seek the God of his father David. In his twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem high places, Asherah poles and idols...”

“In the eighteenth year of Josiah’s reign, to purify the land and the temple, he sent Shaphan son of Azaliah and Maaseiah the ruler of the city, with Joah son of Joahaz, the recorder, to repair the temple of the Lord his God.” II Chronicles 34:1-3, 8

Josiah’s story Read II Kings 22-23 and/or II Chronicles 34-35

Family history

Royal family from the linkage of King David

Wickedness and cruelty of his grandfather Manasseh II Kings 21:1-2, 16-17

Sins: occult practices – sorcery and consulting mediums and spiritists

Forbidden by God (Leviticus 19:31 and Deuteronomy 18:9-13)

Built altars to other gods and starry hosts in the very temple of Lord

Reported that when the prophets spoke God’s warnings to him he not only dismissed them but had some of them killed; including Isaiah. (Hebrews 11:37-38)

Wickedness and cruelty of his father Amon II Kings 21:19-23

He sinned following the example of his father Manasseh

Josiah becomes king and he follows the example not of his grandfather and father but of his ancestor David.

He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord

He released the money collected by the people to prepare the temple as a place of worship for the one true God.

Book of the Law found in the temple. Josiah read it and mourned that it has not been followed. Made a personal covenant that he would follow God and he instructed to nation to do so as well.

Reinstated the observance of the Passover

Main Point: When we take time to sort through life’s messes, examine our lives, and put things in order, the future holds the promise of new blessings from God.

“Instead, let us test and examine our ways. Let us turn back to the Lord.” Lamentations 3:40

“Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life.” Psalm 139:23-24

Old patterns which keep us from God's best for our lives?

What kind of family messes have you seen passed on from generation to generation?

How difficult is it to examine the messes of our own family? How have these messes impacted your life?

Josiah dedicated his life to breaking his messy family cycle not for his sake alone but for the sake of others.

He didn't procrastinate – he examined his ways and the ways of his family

He didn't play the victim

No excuses –

“Let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sins that so easily trips us up.” Hebrews 12:1b

Read Romans 7:15, 17-18 Can you identify with Paul?

Do we have a bad habit or a 'pet'sin'? (Maybe one that's been around for a while in the family.)

He removed temptation

He destroyed all the false idols and altars

“Discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness.” I Timothy 4:7b NASB

“Take time and keep yourself spiritually fit.” I Timothy 4:7b JBP

Read I Corinthians 10:13

He gave God control

“Surrender yourself to the Lord, and wait patiently for him.” Psalm 37:7

Read Ephesians 6:10 How does this verse apply to our messes and bad habits?

Revisited the last three words of Romans 7:18 – *“but I can't.”*

Can we overcome by our own determination and efforts?

Now read Romans 7:24-25, Romans 8:2 and Galatians 5:16

What insights do you receive from these verses for breaking bad patterns?

Build a support team

“Two are better off than one, because together they can work more effectively. If one of them falls down, the other can help him up. But if someone is alone and falls, it's just too bad, because there is no one to help him.” Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 GNT

Look at Josiah's story, he didn't try to accomplish reform alone, he built a team.

African proverb: “If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.”

Read Romans 12:15 and Ecclesiastes 4:12. What are the benefits of doing life together?

