

## AND A LITTLE CHILD SHALL LEAD THEM

Dear Friend:

We've all heard the saying "Out of the mouth of babes...". The implied completion is: "Comes truth or a wise saying". Yes, children can surprise us with their simple wisdom sometimes. No doubt, King Josiah of Judah had wisdom beyond his years. He became King of Judah at the age of 8, the second youngest king of Judah ever (the youngest was Jehoash at the age of 7). No doubt Josiah had those who guided him during his childhood but by his teen years he began showing godly wisdom and leadership. At the age of 12 he began purifying Judah of idols, he wanted to make a statement against idolatry, so he dug up the bones of priests that led idol worship, and he had their bones burned into powder! At the age of 13 he gave orders to rebuild the Jewish Temple and while the Temple was being renovated someone found The Book of the Law. The Book of the Law was the Pentateuch, the first 5 books of the Bible. Josiah called all the people together to hear readings from the Book of the Law and eventually revival broke out.

I learned several interesting things in 2 Chronicles 34 that happened during the reign of Josiah that opened the door for revival. First, no one is ever too young or too old to receive revival from God. I imagine teenage Josiah had quite an influence on other teens, but I also believe there were some very old people present the day the Law was read who could remember the days before the Temple was in disrepair and could remember a spiritual vibrant Judah. You are never too young or too old to experience revival, BUT...you can be too stubborn to experience revival. Another interesting fact that contributed to revival: a great purging of sin took place. Josiah ordered all Baal statues and Asherah poles (idol) tore down, and all priests associated with them be killed. Upon the hearing the Book of the Law and seeing Josiah's move to moral reform all the people pledged their commitment to live according to the Book of the Law. Which leads to a third interesting thing about revival: Where God's Word is placed front and center it becomes a catalyst for revival. Josiah knew there were still people in Israel and Judah who wanted to follow God and wanted revival. In 2 Chronicles 34 he calls these people a remnant - a small group of people. A small group of people can change the spiritual direction of a whole country. And a small group of people begins with one...why not you?

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Mike

Events: This Sunday potluck after church!!!!

Prayer: Every Sunday food pantry collection to be full, Bonnie Montgomery