



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Good Kings – Bad Kings Series, Lesson 21

Lesson Title: Josiah and the Forgotten Book

Take Home Point: Never forget... God speaks to you through his word.

Warm-Up:

Imagine a football team on the first day of spring practice. Weeks before, the coaches passed out the playbook for the players to study and memorize. When drills begin, though, it rapidly becomes apparent that not everyone knows the plays. The head coach stops practice, lines up the offending players, and one by one asks what happened. "Sorry, coach, I lost it a long time ago and didn't think it was important." "But the playbook was really hard." "Well, coach, I figured I could just do what seemed right on the field." "Ummm, it's somewhere in my room but I don't know where right off." How do you think the coach would respond to such disregard for his instructions?

Read: 2 Chronicles 34-35

Observation (What happened?):

How long did it take for Josiah to clean out the wickedness in Judah?

How long had it been since a Passover of this magnitude was celebrated?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Why did everyone forget God's word?

How could Hezekiah properly carry out the duties of high priest without the book of the Law?

Insight:

We are so blessed to have God's written word available to us, so easily accessible and readable. We sometimes lose sight of the fact that this is not true for much of the world. We owe it to God and ourselves to read it and remember it. It should never be like the Israelites in today's reading – not knowing where it was or even that it was missing! In our celebrity culture today, many messages compete for our attention and allegiance. Popular entertainers offer enticing beliefs that strike a chord with people who want a comfortable spirituality that does not demand life change or submission to God. Even popular religious personalities offer ideas that sound good and reasonable to a Biblically illiterate person. Satan's guile is very subtle; he knows the closer the lies are to the truth without really being the truth, the harder it is to distinguish between the two. That's why it is so important to really know God's word for ourselves – not only listening to what others say about it, not just knowing what it says but why, and how we can apply it to living every day. This requires studying the Bible, memorizing it, thinking about what it means, and being aware of our spiritual warfare so we are not tricked by lies. Read Ephesians 6:10-18 to get God's perspective for us.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

Where is your Bible? Make a promise to yourself and God to read from it every day.

Pray for the children in your small group to read and remember God's word.

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