

**Theme:** No Human king or leader can bring about the reformation needed to deliver us from the bondage and penalty of sin; but they can set us on course. We need the reformation of the Spirit that is given to those call on the name of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

## **Background and Introduction**

### **I. Josiah’s Reformation** (Reformation Under Josiah)

#### A. A Passionate pursuit

1. Well taught from childhood (mom and counselors)
2. Committed to serving the God of David
3. Repairing the temple at age 26 (see 2 Kings 12:15 – Joash)

#### B. A Startling discovery (22:8)

1. Book of the Law  
- After 75 years?  
NOTE: Foundation of the worship and faithfulness/obedience of Judah
2. Shaphan (Josiah’s secretary) reads the law (22:10)
3. Josiah hears and receives it (22:11-13)  
- Tears his clothes
4. Seeking the Word of the Lord (22:16-20)  
- Judgment is certain  
- Josiah will not see it (see 2 Corinthians 7:10)
5. An instrument of judgment upon Judah

#### C. Covenant renewal

1. For Josiah
2. For the people (23:3b)  
- With true repentance?

#### D. Cleaning house (23:4-20)

1. Zeal for the Lord (see Deuteronomy 8:19)
2. Fulfilling the Word of the Lord (1 Kings 13:2)

APPLICATION: Can’t compromise with the idols of the world – *or the heart!* Need to be ruthless with sin (See Mark 9:43-50)

### **II. Restoring Passover** (23:21-23; 2 Chronicles 35:1-19)

#### A. It’s strength

1. Like none since the Judges
2. Encouraging Josiah
3. A picture of deliverance

- B. It's weakness
  - The Lord would not pass over the judgment against Judah
  - 2 Kings 23:26,27
  - Heart's still dead in sin

### **III. Reaching Too Far**

- A. Seeking glory for Judah?
    - Needlessly challenging Egypt
  - B. In bondage to Egypt
    - 1. Josiah's heirs
      - Did what was evil in the sight of the Lord
    - 2. Egypt pulls the strings
- NOTE: The tragedy of falling back in the captivity to *Egypt!*
- C. The beginning of the end
    - 1. For the Kingdom of Judah
    - 2. For the Old Covenant
      - The need for a better Covenant is clear

### **IV. Conclusions/Application**

- A. Power of one faithful leader – or one faithful congregation
  - 1. Fruit of his faithfulness?
  - 2. Your own sphere of influence
- B. Reformation is “on-going”
  - Hebrews 7:18,19
  - Philippians 3:10
  - The “law” we obey is the law of love (Ephesians 5:2)
  - Lay hold of the gospel the way Josiah laid hold of the Law!
  - Lay hold of the Word of God!
- 3. Hold fast to the end!!
  - Not one king of Israel/Judah made it to the end without stumbling
  - Let me finish well!
  - I'm no Josiah, but I have sought to live before you (HPC) in the spirit of Philippians 4:9

Next Week – 2 Kings 24-25