

Because Thine Heart Was Tender

III: A Tender Heart _____ God's Temple: v8-13

Josiah is now 26 years old and we see his tender heart still developing, first by seeking God and by purging sin in the land. But then we find Josiah's tender heart moved to repair the Temple which had been neglected and in disrepair.

First notice

A. the _____ between sin and the Temple

The Temple represented God's presence in their lives. And the simple connection that Josiah's tender heart made was that as sin was elevated in their lives the Temple became neglected.

B. the _____ of the repair

The greatest cost was to purge the sin. But there was also a financial cost.

C. the _____ of the people

Josiah's tender heart was contagious. In repairing the Temple he got everyone involved. From skilled laborers to the orchestra and choir, they worked to repair what sin and neglect had damaged.

Josiah understood that seeking God and purging sin wasn't enough. Repairs needed to be made. Things needed to be made right. Not for Josiah's glory but for the glory and blessing of God.



February 20, 2022

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Part 1

2 Chronicles 34

2 Chronicles 34 is the recorded testimony of Josiah, the last great king of Judah prior to captivity. And in his testimony, we find God's postponing His judgment on Judah because Josiah's heart was tender.

God warns us in Proverbs 4:23 to **Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.** What areas of Josiah's life did he guard and keep? What does a tender heart look like? Is a tender heart soft on sin? Does it prevent someone from taking drastic measures against sin?

This morning we begin a two-part mini series looking at the evidences of a tender heart.

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I: A Tender Heart _____ God: v2-3

Josiah's tender heart...

A. _____ on course

David was Josiah's "spiritual" father in that he set the example for a godly king. Throughout Josiah's life he didn't compromise with sin but rather continued to walk in the ways of David.

B. _____ for a right relationship with God

Verse 3 tells us that Josiah ***began to seek after the God of David his father:***

Prior to the age of 16, Josiah walked in the ways of David by conformity. But at the age of 16, Josiah began his search for the same relationship that David enjoyed with the Lord.

A tender heart recognizes the difference in simply walking in the ways of Christianity and seeking a close relationship with the Author and Finisher of our faith, Jesus Christ.

II: A Tender Heart _____ Sin: v3-7

As Josiah began to grow closer to the Lord, by the age of 20 he began to realize the sinful condition of Judah and Jerusalem. He saw how infested sin had become in the land, so he began a process of purging Jerusalem, Judah, and part of the northern kingdom of Israel of the idolatry that brought God's judgment.

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A. it was a _____ purging

The idolatry in the land was purged in the city and countryside; it was purged in the high places and groves; and the altars of Baal were broken down in Josiah's presence. He not only destroyed the idols and anything associated with them, but he ground them into dust and scattered the dust upon the graves of those who had sacrificed to those false gods. Additionally, Josiah had the bones of the dead false gods priests burned upon the altars in which they made their hopeless sacrifices.

B. it was a _____ purging

Josiah's goal was not simple conformity of the people and priests to the Law of God but rather his goal was for his people and land be restored in their relationship with the Lord. Josiah understood that sin displeases and dishonors God. He also understood that unconfessed sin would bring God's harsh judgment upon them.

A tender heart towards God will always seek God but also reflect God's heart by loving what God loves and hating what God hates. And the person, whether a Christian or not, that is content to live in such a sin-filled nation and culture without repentance and the purging of sin, does not possess a tender heart.

Psalms 5:4-5 -⁴ ***For thou art not a God that hath pleasure in wickedness: neither shall evil dwell with thee.*** ⁵ ***The foolish shall not stand in thy sight: thou hatest all workers of iniquity***
