

**Sermon Series:** The Great Emergence

**Sermon Title:** Revival

**Sermon Text:** 2 Kings 22 & 23

**Small Group Reminders:** Be sure to review other events @ NWC.FYI

*Be sure to attend this week's Thursday Night Zoom Fellowship! We're talking about reopening Northway!*

## Pre-Discussion Questions:

*When you met last week, you should have shared with your group at least one action step you would take. **How did you do?***

## Icebreaker Questions:

- Can you think of a time when you rediscovered something special to you that had been missing for a long time? Or maybe reflect on something from your past that you really miss - a season of life or a place or a relationship that stirs up good feelings you'd like to experience again.

Read this week's **Sermon in a Sentence:** *Revival comes to the Christ Follower that returns to God's presence, responds to God's Word in Repentance and Reignites his/her passion for serving God.*

## Discussion Questions:

1. **REVIEW:** If needed, briefly run through the bullet points of Sunday's message. (See other side.)
  - What did God teach you through the message this weekend? Any personal insights coming out of Sunday's message?
2. **DISCUSS**
  - Make a list of the reasons we might wander away from a life of passionately following God and his ways. (Don't rush through this. Somebody write them down as you go.) Which ones can you identify with?
  - Why is God's word so important in the repentance and revival process?
  - Jesus simplified God's Life Design down to two core principles: Love God. Love People. Take a few moments to talk about how our lives often are disoriented to that simple law. What are some specific ways do we break the rules?
  - Paul connects the dots from keeping ourselves fueled and aflame, fervent in the Spirit, to service. Why might acts of service be useful in "fanning the flames?"
  - What do you think is the difference between a momentary decision and a covenant?
3. **PRACTICE:**
  - Continue preparing for your Great Emergence.
  - Take some time to talk about the history of your own spiritual thermometer. Has it fluctuated greatly? Do you think you've ever had a real "fire" within for God? Do you now? (This is personal. But have courage to talk through it and encourage one another!) What do you want it to look like as we start to emerge from The Great Lockdown?
  - In Josiah's case, "all the people" agreed to the covenant. How might your Small Group follow suit? In light of this revival process, what one or two sentence covenant could you write out and all agree to? Once you've written it, keep it somewhere handy and pull it out often to remind each other in the weeks and months ahead.

## Application/Reflection

- Write down the sermon in a sentence.
- Write down and share with the group at least one action step you'll take this week.
- Write down one person's name from your group (Make sure each person has at least one person, not in the same household), and one thing you could pray for and be intentional throughout the week to pray for them.

## This Week: Revival

- **The story of young King Josiah is a model for how revival can come.**

- Josiah was 8 years old when he took the throne.
- His Grandfather and Father were wicked and led the people away from God's Word and His ways.
- At 16, Josiah begins turning his heart back toward God and begins a process of reformation throughout the country.
- 10 years later, while making repairs to the temple, a "book" is discovered.

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- **Josiah's spiritual revival gives us a process or framework for experiencing it ourselves:**

- 1. Return to God's Presence.**

- *In the eighth year of his reign, while he was still a youth, Josiah began to seek the God of his ancestor David...* 2 Chr. 34:3
- Revival can begin when one person fully turns their heart back toward God. When one person begins to SEEK God - to look for him again - to chase after him again.
- Josiah was just 16 years old when the kindling of revival fire began. Revival can start with one person willing to seek God with their whole heart, **regardless of how old and wise or young and inexperienced they might be.**

- 2. Rediscover the Truth of God's Word**

- *Hilkiah the high priest said to Shaphan the court secretary, "I have found the Book of the Law in the LORD's Temple!"* 2 Kings 22:8
- Could it be that the reason the nation of Judah had gotten so far removed from God's presence was because they had gotten so far removed from His word?
- If you're unsure of why you haven't had the fire of God burning within you, if you've not been confident in your faith and in your witness and in your love for others, if you're in need of revival, then one question might be, **Do you still have a passion for God's Word? Or is God's Word lost to you?** Is it collecting dust somewhere on a shelf? Have you forgotten what it says?

- 3. Repent for Your Wandering.**

- *When the king heard the words of the book of the law, he tore his clothes.* 2 Kings 22:10-11
- Tearing one's clothes was a tradition most often related to mourning at the loss of a loved one. Some traditions say the clothes should be torn over the heart as a powerful and public sign of a broken heart.
- That Josiah would respond in this way to the reading of God's word is truly a sign of humility and awesome sorrow.
- *"Tear your hearts, not just your clothes, and return to the LORD your God..."* Joel 2:13
- Repentance is always a part of the story when revival comes. Repentance can only come when we take a deep and honest look into our lives and realize how disoriented we are to God's ways.

- 4. Recommit to Living by God's Design.**

- *"Next, the king stood by the pillar and made a covenant in the LORD's presence to follow the LORD and to keep his commands, his decrees, and his statutes with all his heart and with all his soul in order to carry out the words of this covenant that were written in this book; all the people agreed to the covenant."* 2 Kings 23:3
- God has a design for our lives. It is first rooted in his commands, his decrees, and his statutes. If we don't know God's Word or we choose to ignore it, we make up our own rules as we go along through life based on what we want and how we feel.
- Jesus boiled the entire law down to **two fundamental truths:** Love God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength and love your neighbor as yourself. **Love God. Love People.** We are to live our lives rightly related to God and rightly related to others.
- It's clearly not enough to simply say you're sorry. **True repentance leads to true life change.**
- Josiah "made a covenant in the LORD's presence." This is not just a decision within yourself to "do better." This is a covenant you're making with God himself - to make a resolution to walk away from a life rooted in selfishness & to live by God's Royal Law of Love.

- 5. Rekindle Your Passion for Serving God.**

- *"Before him there was no king like him who turned to the LORD with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his strength according to all the law of Moses, and no one like him arose after him."* 2 Kings 23:25
- Josiah didn't just make an emotional decision during an altar call one day. No, his passion for God only grew. Josiah became a God Chaser for the rest of his life.
- Paul connects our decision to follow Christ with our emotions - to be zealous for God, which means to have great energy and enthusiasm. And then he connects that zeal to service.
  - *Don't burn out; keep yourselves fueled and aflame.* Romans 12:11 MSG
  - *Do not lack diligence in zeal; be fervent in the Spirit; serve the Lord.* Romans 12:11 CSB
  - Essentially, what Paul is saying is that our consistent and passionate pursuit of God, which manifests in service, is what fans the flame, keeps the fire burning within us.
- *"I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth.* Revelation 3:15-16
  - What does your spiritual thermometer say right now? Is it hot? Is it cold? Or even worse, is it lukewarm?
- Let's stoke the flames! Let the fire of God burn within us. Let's rekindle our passion for serving God. **Let it be said that no one who ever came before or after turned to the Lord with all their heart, mind, soul and strength like us!**

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