

## How Far Will I Go to Serve God?

*II Kings 21-22*

### Intro:

A. How does society view the impact of one's surroundings?

- a. Low income are listed as being significantly higher offenders in robberies, as well as violent crimes
- b. Children of alcoholic homes 4x likely to be alcoholics
- c. Divorce is 50% more likely when at least one spouse comes from a home with divorced parents

IV. Examples based on facts; but characteristics, nor destiny

- a. Know many exceptions
- b. They asked "How far am I willing to go?"

B. King Josiah:

I. Came to power under difficult circumstances

- a. Throne at age of 8
- b. Who did he have for examples?: *II Kings 21:1-4*
- c. Doomed Judah to captivity *II Kings 21:10-12,14*
- d. Father just as bad *II Kings 21:19-22*
- e. Father's murder *II Kings 21:23*
- f. Kingdom had followed along
  - i. Which is biggest risk factor?
  - ii. Society would fail Josiah

II. But Josiah chose differently

### **I. Josiah Made Big Changes and Unpopular Choices:**

A. Admitted to the wrong path: ***II Chron 34:3***

I. Many difficulties in one verse

- a. Josiah's age:
  - i. Opposing family
- b. Where did Josiah find the zeal to set out on this path?

B. Ignored negative influences: ***II Chron. 34:3-7***

I. Undertook great changes that would have been unpopular

II. Imagined responses

*a. Josiah! You can't tear these down, you'll dishonor your grandfather's memory!*

*b. If you tear these down you will anger the gods we serve!*

*c. You can't take away our places of worship! I've worshipped this way all my life!*

*d. Think of all the faithful priests you'll be putting out of a job!*

## **2. Josiah Didn't Settle for Good Enough: II Chron. 34:8-10**

A. Kings that started off well:

I. King Saul

II. Jehu

III. Amaziah

IV. Verbal commitments easy to make/break

B. Commitment to the temple: **II Chron. 34:8-10**

I. Hadn't he done enough?

II. Could have used money other ways.

III. Wanted to do it right.

C. How did Josiah act when God demanded more?

I. **II Kings 22:8** records that the book of the law was found:

a. Written by Moses to guard against apostasy. Deut. 31:24-27

b. Some commandments still being neglected. **II Kings 22:11-12**

II. A crossroads

a. Book brought new challenges

b. Need to do more

c. Keep from being disheartened

d. Josiah's choices summed up in **II Chron 34:31-33**: