

Kings & Kingdoms #10
The Pitfall of Inaction

Word

Scripture Reference

2 Chronicles 34

Discussion Questions

1. What usually keeps you from accomplishing something for which you have planned?
2. We live in a generation that looks for purpose. People want to do something with their lives, but more often than not, it does not concern spiritual matters, even for many believers. We have fallen into the pitfall of inaction in our spiritual lives. What do we need to do in order to avoid falling into this pit? Take a look at the life of King Josiah in 2 Chronicles 34. King Josiah reigned after two kings—his father and grandfather—who did not follow God, but because King Josiah sought God, his reign was very different from his predecessors. How old was King Josiah when he became king (v. 1)? How long did he reign? How does verse 2 assess his reign? When did he consciously start his personal spiritual journey (v. 3)? Discuss the importance of teaching your children about spiritual matters at a young age. How are the children and youth ministries in your church helping the life of your children? What are you doing to participate in these ministries and impact young lives?
3. King Josiah's relationship with God was intensely personal. It was not a group decision, but personal decision to seek God (v. 3a). This decision prompted him to four concrete actions that made him focused on God:
 - a. *The action of intolerance when God's specific instructions are in view (v. 3b-7).* At 20 years old, Josiah already had a very close relationship with God that he could not tolerate the worship of other gods or idols. Describe what he did to cleanse Judah and Jerusalem from idol worship. Our generation today have a distorted understanding of tolerance. For most people, tolerance means that you cannot disagree with someone even when it is wrong. Discuss some of the things that you are expected to tolerate/accept even if you know that the Word of God tells you the opposite. Have you fallen into the pitfall of inaction because of tolerance? How can you make a stand for the truth based on the specific instructions of the Word of God?
 - b. *The action of self-reflection and self-examination (v. 8-21).* At the age of 26, Josiah's next project was to repair the temple of God, with details of how it was done described in verses 10-13. What did Hilkiah the priest find while they were repairing the temple (v. 14)? How did King Josiah react upon

learning of this news (v. 19-21)? How do you react when the Word of God speaks to you? Do you self-reflect ("How does it affect me?") and self-examine ("How should I change?") in response to the convicting power of God's Word? Like King Josiah did in verse 22, you, too, have the responsibility to act in accordance to the Word of God over the people under your responsibility or influence. How are you going about it? Discuss what you need to do so that the next generation can continue to love the Lord and follow His Word.

- c. *The action of keeping a tender heart (v. 22-28).* Because King Josiah's heart was tender, he was moved to action. As a result, God's judgment to His people's disobedience was delayed. A person with a tender heart is strong in character and courageous enough to allow God to change him/her. In what way does a tender heart show in your actions? Why would a hard heart pull a person down to the pitfall of inaction?
- d. *The action of calling people to emulate you as you follow God (v. 29-33).* King Josiah gathered all the people, and in front of them he renewed his commitment that He would follow God and keep His commands. How did the people respond to King Josiah's action? Like King Josiah, can you call the people around you to emulate you as you follow God? As a parent or a teacher, what are the things you do that you could ask your children or students to emulate? Are you confident to ask someone to follow you because you are following Christ?

Walk

Unlike other kings in the Old Testament, King Josiah was a king who started young and well, and he also ended greatly because he sought and followed God as long as he lived. Take a look at and assess your spiritual life. When was the last time you were motivated to do something great for the Lord? How do you seek Him with your life? What are the clear instructions on the Word of God that you should live out in order to avoid the pitfall of inaction?

Worship & Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for Your Word that reminds us continually to come back to You and follow You. Thank You because You never let age hinder anyone from choosing to be Your disciple. I pray for courage, Lord, to stand firmly by my convictions based on Your Truth, and to demonstrate gentleness and love without being tolerant of sin. As I continue to study Your Word, show me what behaviors I need to change and enable me to do so. Keep my heart tender, and allow me to have people around me who will encourage me towards drawing closer to You. As young or as old as I am, may I serve as an excellent example to other people of what following Christ looks like. In Jesus' name. Amen.