

Josiah Reads God's Words

by Deaconess Faith Swenson

The king heard the words of the Book of the Law. When he did, he tore his royal robe. –2 Kings 22:11 NIV

- Do you know anyone who is eight or nine years old?
- If so, do you think they could run a country at that age?

When Josiah was very young, eight years old, he became the king. It's hard to imagine having a king that young. But the story of Josiah is a favorite for many people. In his story, while Josiah is still very young, he decides to repair the temple, or church, of God. In the process, the high priest discovers the Book of the Law. This book is the first five books of the Bible. (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy) These books had been lost and no one had read or heard them for a very long time. Josiah hears God's Word and realizes he has not been following God's law. Since Josiah feels like a terrible person, he tears his robes, full of shame.

- Have you ever done something bad?
- How did you feel when you realized you had done something bad?
- Did you say you were sorry?

We never feel good about the bad things we have done. It is best to repent, or to turn from our sin, and say sorry for the bad things we have done. That is what Josiah did! Tearing his clothes showed he knew he had done wrong and wished to turn from evil.

The story of Josiah does not end there. The high priest went to see a prophetess for King Josiah. A prophet or a prophetess speaks on behalf of God; God talks to them to give the people a message. The prophetess said God saw Josiah tear his clothes and show he was sorry. Therefore, God would not destroy Josiah's kingdom.

When hearing the Book of the Law, Josiah heard God's promise to save us someday. Josiah wanted to share God's Word with everyone who lived in Jerusalem. We also have the chance to share God's saving love with those around us. We should share the good news that Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sins. We should tell others Jesus rose from death and is now in heaven.

- Do you know anyone who needs to hear about Jesus and His love and forgiveness?
- If so, what could you tell them about Jesus?
- Do you have a Bible?
- If so, when do you listen to or read the Bible?
- Could you show the person who needs to hear about Jesus your Bible?
- If so, what would you show that person in your Bible?

Prayer

Dear God,

Thank You for giving us the Bible so we can hear about Your law.

Thank You for giving us the Bible so we can hear about Jesus.

Help us share Your Word, the Bible, with others so they can know about You.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

