

No Excuses

2Chr. 34:1 Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem thirty-one years. 2 He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD and walked in the ways of his father David, not turning aside to the right or to the left. 3 In the eighth year of his reign, while he was still young, he began to seek the God of his father David. In his twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of high places, Asherah poles, carved idols and cast images. 4 Under his direction the altars of the Baals were torn down; he cut to pieces the incense altars that were above them, and smashed the Asherah poles, the idols and the images. These he broke to pieces and scattered over the graves of those who had sacrificed to them.

Josiah had every reason to NOT change things in Israel

His past was too _____.

2Kgs. 21:21 [Amon] walked in all the ways of his father; he worshiped the idols his father had worshiped, and bowed down to them.

2Kgs. 21:9 But the people did not listen. Manasseh led them astray, so that they did more evil than the nations the LORD had destroyed before the Israelites.

His culture was too _____.

2Kgs. 21:23 Amon's officials conspired against him and assassinated the king in his palace. 24 Then the people of the land killed all who had plotted against King Amon, and they made Josiah his son king in his place.

The _____ was too big.

1) The People didn't know the _____!

2 Chron 34:18 Then Shaphan the secretary informed the king, "Hilkiah the priest has given me **a book**." And Shaphan read from it in the presence of the king.

2) _____ was widespread across Israel

- Almost everyone worshipped _____.
- Some people sacrificed their _____!n fire
- Every city had "_____ _____" for false worship
- There were even idols in the _____ of God!

Josiah was too _____.

2Chr. 34:1 Josiah was eight years old when he became king... In the eighth year of his reign, while he was still young, he began to seek the God of his father David... In his twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of high places, Asherah poles, carved idols and cast images.

The _____ was already decided!

2Chron 34:24 `This is what the LORD says: I am going to bring disaster on this place and its people --all the curses written in the book that has been read in the presence of the king of Judah... But, because your heart was responsive and you humbled yourself before God when you heard what he spoke against this place and its people, and because you humbled yourself before me and tore your robes and wept in my presence, I have heard you, declares the LORD. 28 Now I will gather you to your fathers, and you will be buried in peace. Your eyes will not see all the disaster I am going to bring on this place and on those who live here.'" So they took her answer back to the king.

YET, Josiah was DETERMINED to do what was right!

What do we learn from Josiah?

_____ is the time to be the person you know you should be!

2Chr. 34:1 Josiah was eight years old when he became king... In the eighth year of his reign, while he was still young, he began to seek the God of his father David. In his twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of high places... In the eighteenth year of his reign, King Josiah ... heard the words of the Book of the Law, [and] tore his.

Determine where you can have _____!

2Chr. 34:1 Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem thirty-one years.

Wait for _____ reward, not the approval of your friends.

2Chr. 34:28 Now I will gather you to your fathers, and you will be buried in peace.

Don't ever _____ _____!

2Kings 23:15 Even the altar at Bethel, the high place made by Jeroboam son of Nebat, who had caused Israel to sin --even that altar and high place he demolished. He burned the high place and ground it to powder, and burned the Asherah pole also.

Remember: Fewer Excuses means fewer _____!