

What America Needs

The Power of God's Word – Part 2 (2 Kings 23:1-25)

Life Church St. Louis – July 1, 2012

Pastor Dan Walker

2 Chronicles 7:14 (NIV) if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

2 Timothy 4:3-4 (NIV) For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.

1. _____ the Book of the Covenant

2 Kings 23:2 (NIV) He went up to the temple of the LORD with the men of Judah, the people of Jerusalem, the priests and the prophets--all the people from the least to the greatest. He read in their hearing all the words of the Book of the Covenant, which had been found in the temple of the LORD.

2. _____ your covenant with the Lord

2 Kings 23:3 (NIV) The king stood by the pillar and renewed the covenant in the presence of the LORD--to follow the LORD and keep his commands, regulations and decrees with all his heart and all his soul, thus confirming the words of the covenant written in this book. Then all the people pledged themselves to the covenant.

3. _____ idols from our land

A. Remove idols from our _____

2 Kings 23:4,7 (NIV) The king ordered Hilkiah the high priest, the priests next in rank and the doorkeepers to remove from the temple of the LORD all the articles made for Baal and Asherah and all the starry hosts. He also tore down the quarters of the male shrine prostitutes, which were in the temple of the LORD and where women did weaving for Asherah.

B. Remove idols from our _____

2 Kings 23:8-10 (NIV) Josiah brought all the priests from the towns of Judah and desecrated the high places, from Geba to Beersheba, where the priests had burned incense. ... He desecrated Topheth, which was in the Valley of Ben Hinnom, so no one could use it to sacrifice his son or daughter in the fire to Molech.

C. Remove idols from our _____

2 Kings 23:24 (NIV) Furthermore, Josiah got rid of the mediums and spiritists, the household gods, the idols and all the other detestable things seen in Judah and Jerusalem. This he did to fulfill the requirements of the law written in the book that Hilkiah the priest had discovered in the temple of the LORD.

4. _____ true worship of God

2 Kings 23:21 (NIV) The king gave this order to all the people: "Celebrate the Passover to the LORD your God, as it is written in this Book of the Covenant."

5. _____ to the Lord with whole hearts

2 Kings 23:25 (NIV) Neither before nor after Josiah was there a king like him who turned to the LORD as he did--with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his strength, in accordance with all the Law of Moses.

2 Chronicles 34:33 (NIV) Josiah removed all the detestable idols from all the territory belonging to the Israelites, and he had all who were present in Israel serve the LORD their God. As long as he lived, they did not fail to follow the LORD, the God of their fathers.

What America Needs – Study Guide

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Intro. If our founding fathers were transported in a time machine from 1776 to 2012, what do you think they would say?

What do believers need to do to impact America (2 Chronicles 7:14)?

What evidence do you see that the prophecy of 2 Timothy 4:3-4 is being fulfilled today in the churches of America?

1. Why was it significant that God's Word was read publicly to all the people (2 Kings 23:2, 1 Timothy 4:13)?

What does it mean that God's Word is called the Book of the Covenant (Deuteronomy 30:15-20)?

In what ways can you share God's Word with those around you?

2. What was involved in King Josiah's renewal of the covenant with the Lord (2 Kings 23:3)?

How do you think America needs to renew its covenant with the Lord?

3. What were some of the terrible consequences of idolatry before King Josiah's renewal (2 Kings 23:4-15, 24)?

What are modern-day idols in America that give rise to immoral sexual practices, child sacrifice, drug abuse and spiritism?

How can you stand against idols in your life and the society?

4. Why was the celebration of the Passover so appropriate as King Josiah restored true worship (2 Kings 23:21, Exodus 12:3-20)?

In what ways does true worship protect against idolatry?

5. Why did King Josiah have such an impact on his nation (2 Kings 23:25, 2 Chronicles 34:33)?

How would you compare your life and commitment to that of King Josiah?