

JOSIAH . . . ORIGINAL BOY WONDER
II KINGS 22:8-13

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Batman and his trusted sidekick Robin, aka **“The Boy Wonder”**

Boy Wonder: A young man whose acts and achievements are precocious (more than expected from one of his age)



- Robin amazed and attracted younger readers to marvel comics and viewers to the original Batman series by accompanying and assisting Batman as he saved Gotham and society at large from super villains, such as The Riddler, Two-Face, The Joker and The Penguin
- Robin was featured as a boy who was ahead of his time.
- Today we we're going to take a look at
...



BACKDROP

- Josiah ascended to the throne at the tender age of 8. **II Kings 22:1**
- He did not have the best parental examples or role models --
 - **Manasseh (grandfather)** did evil in the sight of the Lord God. In fact he was likened to Ahab. **II Kings 21:1-9**
 - **Amon (father)** likewise did evil in the sight of the Lord God and was assassinated by his servants in his own home. **II Kings 21:19-23**



BACKDROP

- The average sociologist would conclude that Josiah would be a “troubled youth” and not walk in the ways of God.
- Yet despite the leadership void and lack of role models, Josiah followed the lord.

And he (Josiah) did what was right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in all the ways of his father David; he did not turn aside to the right side or to the left.

II Kings 22:2



- After Josiah had been on throne in Jerusalem 18 years, he sent funds by Shaphan the scribe to Hilkiah the high priest to help rebuild the temple. **II Kings 22:3-7**
- During Shaphan's mission, Hilkiah gives Shaphan the lost book of the Law. **II Kings 22:8**
- Shaphan reads it and, upon his return, reads it to King Josiah.



■ Josiah has a visceral reaction and tears his clothes upon learning that the failure to follow God's plan had created serious problems that were multi-generational (i.e., children, grandchildren, great-grands, etc.) **II Kings 22:11-13**

■ Josiah reaffirmed his commitment to the Lord and restored divine, God-ordained worship. **II Kings 23**



LESSONS TO BE LEARNED

- 1. Never too young to follow the Lord or do what's right.**
- 2. We don't have to repeat the wrongs and misdeeds of our parents (previous generations).**
- 3. Learning should never cease**
- 4. God rewards those who diligently seek Him.**



I. Never Too Young

Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.

I Timothy 4:12

- Many times we use youth as an excuse or justification to engage in sinful or ill-advised behavior.



- Remember, we are creatures of habit. We simply repeat what we usually say or do or how we act.
- The same could be said for just about every aspect of our lives – good study habits, work ethic, personal hygiene
- The earlier one commits to the Lord and make good, principled decision making a habit, the longer s/he has to live for the Lord.



Must distinguish between mistakes / lapses in judgment and intentional behavior.

Example: Young person misjudging the speed of an oncoming car and intentionally taking a vehicle and ramming it into a tree.

“Sowing wild oats” becomes almost synonymous with a license to engage in illicit sexual promiscuity.



II. Repeating Mistakes Unnecessary

We may not have the best exposure & experiences at times, but . . .

When we learn better, we should do better.

Note Paul's works before and after he encountered the Lord on the Damascus road.



BEFORE:

- Paul was a prime mover in the stoning of Stephen. **Acts 7:54-8:1**
- Paul continued to vex and persecute members of the Lord's church. **Acts 8:3**
- In fact, Paul was on his way to wreak greater havoc when he encounters the Lord. **Acts 9:1-4**



AFTER:

- Paul would become the apostle tasked principally with evangelizing the Gentile world. **Galatians 2:7-9**
- Paul would author virtually half of the New Testament books!



**Sometimes we have to
get away from mama
'nem!!**



III. Never Stop Learning

- It was after 18 years that Josiah learned of the lost book of the Law.
- Station or position in life should not dampen our desire to learn and know more.
- Continuous learning and growth position us to remain relevant, productive and attractive.
- Can help avoid unemployment or being placed in position where we are at others mercy



SHUN COMPLACENCY

*Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content; I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. **Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.***

Philippians 4:11-12

- Content does not mean complacent.
- Sometimes we become too comfortable and totally satisfied when there is much more to learn and achieve.



*But grow in the grace and
knowledge of our Lord and Savior
Jesus Christ . . .*

II Peter 3:18



IV. God Rewards Those Who Follow HIM

Note God's message to Josiah –

*Because your heart was tender, and you **humbled yourself before the Lord when you heard the word** what I spoke against this place and against its inhabitants, that they would become a desolation and a curse, and you tore your clothes and wept before Me, **I also have heard you**, says the Lord. Surely, therefore, I will gather you to your fathers, and you shall be gathered to your grave in peace; and **your eyes shall not see all the calamity which I will bring to this place. . .***

II Kings 22:19-20



Recall the reassuring words of
the psalmist –

*For the Lord is a sun and shield;
the Lord will give grace and
glory; no good thing will He
withhold from those who walk
uprightly. Psalm 84:11*



The problem is that in many instances we truly do not have a clue what is good for us!!

We often get it twisted and confuse what is **GOOD FOR US** and what is **GOOD TO US**.

Recall Samson's downfall (that J.W. waxed on so eloquently recently): - he saw a daughter of the enemy nation and demanded that his parents get her for him because "she pleases me." **Judges 14:1-3**



The prophet Jeremiah had it right when he noted --

*O Lord I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his own steps. **Jeremiah 10:23***



LORD'S INVITATION EXTENDED TO ALL

- **Be added to the Lord's body**

Hear the gospel (**Romans 10:17**)

Believe (**Acts 15:7, Hebrews 11:6**)

Repent (**Acts 2:38**)

Confess (**Romans 10:10**)

Be baptized for the remission of sin (**Acts 2:38**); **or**



LORD'S INVITATION (CONT'D)

- **Be reconciled unto the Lord** (I John 1:8-9); or
- **Desire prayer** (James 5:16).



May GOD richly bless you!

