

## Be Careful About the Decisions You Make

(By Rev. Anthony Menzel, October 11, 2020)

\*\*\*I was really blessed after service two weeks ago...

I preached a message entitled “Stay with the Lord Jesus from Generation to Generation...”

The message was centered around the life of King Josiah, whom God used to bring a great spiritual awakening to the nation of Judah...

Brother Leandro, one of the leaders in my church, started talking to me about other passages in the Bible that talk about Josiah...

The message today was born out of that conversation, and it showed me how much we can grow if we focus our interactions more on the things of God...

### Ephesians 5.15-21

**15** See then that you walk [e]circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, **16** redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

**17** Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord *is*. **18** And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, **19** speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, **20** giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, **21** submitting to one another in the fear of [f]God.

Often I find that we as Christians often focus a lot on worldly things...

### 1 Corinthians 3:1-8

And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual *people* but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. **2** I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able *to receive it*, and even now you are still not able; **3** for you are still carnal. For where *there are* envy, strife, and divisions

among you, are you not carnal and [a]behaving like *mere* men? **4** For when one says, “I am of Paul,” and another, “I *am* of Apollos,” are you not carnal?

Watering, Working, Warning

**5** Who then is Paul, and who *is* Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one? **6** I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. **7** So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase. **8** Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor.

The level of revelation we can receive depends on how much we have developed ourselves spiritually...

Are we more spiritual or more carnal?...

Are we becoming more and more like the Lord Jesus, or are spiritual babies?...

The more we focus on godly things, the more we will grow, and the happier we will be in the long term...

### **Galatians 6:7-8**

**7** Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. **8** For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.

\*\*\*In any case, following my discussion with Leandro, I began looking at the life of King Josiah from the perspective of the book of **2 Chronicles**....

And I learned something very important:

Whenever we are going to make a decision, especially a big decision, we should always consult with the Holy Trinity...

Josiah did not do this about an important decision in his role as king, and it cost him his life...

Josiah made the major mistake of taking on a fight that wasn't his...

## **2 Chronicles 35:20-24**

**20** After all this, when Josiah had prepared the temple, Necho king of Egypt came up to fight against Carchemish by the Euphrates; and Josiah went out against him. **21** But he sent messengers to him, saying, "What have I to do with you, king of Judah? *I have not come* against you this day, but against the house with which I have war; for God commanded me to make haste. Refrain *from meddling with God*, who *is* with me, lest He destroy you." **22** Nevertheless Josiah would not turn his face from him, but disguised himself so that he might fight with him, and did not heed the words of Necho from the mouth of God. So he came to fight in the Valley of Megiddo.

**23** And the archers shot King Josiah; and the king said to his servants, "Take me away, for I am severely wounded." **24** His servants therefore took him out of that chariot and put him in the second chariot that he had, and they brought him to Jerusalem. So he died, and was buried in *one of* the tombs of his fathers. And all Judah and Jerusalem mourned for Josiah.

Thus, we can be devoted followers of the Lord Jesus and still suffer unnecessarily if we refuse to seek God for guidance or follow the guidance He gives us.

\*\*\* Josiah's mistake and early death were not only disastrous for him but also for his family and his whole nation...

1. Two weeks ago we learned that one of the mistakes that Josiah made was starting to have children too young and having them with different women...

## **2 Kings 23:31-36**

**31** Jehoahaz *was* twenty-three years old when he became king, and he reigned three months in Jerusalem. His mother's name *was* Hamutal the daughter of Jeremiah of Libnah. **32** And he did evil in the sight of the Lord, according to all that his fathers had done. **33** Now Pharaoh Necho put him in prison at Riblah in the land of Hamath, that he might not reign in Jerusalem; and he imposed on the land a tribute of one hundred talents of silver and a talent of gold. **34** Then Pharaoh Necho made Eliakim the son of Josiah king in place of his father Josiah, and changed his name to Jehoiakim. And *Pharaoh* took Jehoahaz and went to Egypt, and [r]he died there.

### **Jehoiakim Reigns in Judah**

**35** So Jehoiakim gave the silver and gold to Pharaoh; but he taxed the land to give money according to the command of Pharaoh; he exacted the silver and gold from the people of the land, from every one according to his assessment, to give *it* to Pharaoh Necho. **36** Jehoiakim *was* twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. His mother's name *was* Zebudah the daughter of Pedaiah of Rumah.

As we studied previously, Josiah became king at 8 years old and reigned for 31 years. Thus, we know that he died at the age of 39....

## **2 Chronicles 34:1**

Josiah *was* eight years old when he became king, and he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem.

Thus, we know that he started having children with different women at a very young age...

Jehoahaz 39-23=16... Josiah was 16 when he had Jehoahaz...

Jehoiakim 39-25=14... Josiah was only 14 when he had Jehoiakim

It is evident from the evil way that his sons conducted themselves upon taking over the Kingdom of Judah that they needed more spiritual mentorship...,

Even though they were technically adult men, Josiah's job in raising spiritually had not been successfully completed when he died...

He left a lot of work undone in his family, which resulted in failures, defeats, and even destruction in their lives....

1. The big mistake that led to Josiah's early death also was disastrous for the nation of Judah...

Soon after he began having children, **2 Chronicles** teaches us that he also began seeking the Lord...

Perhaps becoming a father, seeing the miracle of birth, made him realize that there was something beyond the world system and its carnal pleasures...

### **2 Chronicles 34:1-3**

Josiah *was* eight years old when he became king, and he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem. **2** And he did *what was* right in the sight of the Lord, and walked in the ways of his father David; *he did not* turn aside to the right hand or to the left.

**3** For in the eighth year of his reign, while he was still young, he began to seek the God of his father David; and in the twelfth year he began to purge

Judah and Jerusalem of the [a]high places, the wooden images, the carved images, and the molded images.

It is noteworthy that Josiah began to seek God at the age of 16 and God began to use King Josiah to bring spiritual awakening at the age of 20...

When he was 26, the spiritual awakening that God used King Josiah to lead reached its height when Josiah finally found a copy of God's Word...

The nation of Judah had gotten so far away from God that the religious leaders, let alone the government leaders, did not use a written form of the Bible any more in their worship services...

Some Christians might ask, How could the worship of God deteriorate so badly in Judah?

My response would be that a lot of our churches are in danger of going in such a direction...

The proof of that is that many Christians do not take their Bibles to church, nor do they check to see whether what religious leaders say is actually in the Bible...

To avoid this situation, we should take our Bibles to church and make sure that what is being taught is actually in God's Word...

### **Acts 17:10-12**

**10** Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. **11** These were more [d]fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily *to find out* whether these things were so. **12** Therefore many of them believed, and also not a few of the Greeks, prominent women as well as men.

**2 Chronicles 34:8, 18-21** tells us about when a written copy of God's Word was found during King Josiah's reign...

**8** In the eighteenth year of his reign, when he had purged the land and the [c]temple, he sent Shaphan the son of Azaliah, Maaseiah the governor of the city, and Joah the son of Joahaz the recorder, to repair the house of the Lord his God. **9** When they came to Hilkiah the high priest, they delivered the money that was brought into the house of God, which the Levites who kept the doors had gathered from the hand of Manasseh and Ephraim, from all the remnant of Israel, from all Judah and Benjamin, and *which* they had brought back to Jerusalem. **10** Then they put *it* in the hand of the foremen who had the oversight of the house of the Lord; and they gave it to the workmen who worked in the house of the Lord, to repair and restore the house. **11** They gave *it* to the craftsmen and builders to buy hewn stone and timber for beams, and to floor the houses which the kings of Judah had destroyed. **12** And the men did the work faithfully. Their overseers *were* Jahath and Obadiah the Levites, of the sons of Merari, and Zechariah and Meshullam, of the sons of the Kohathites, to supervise. *Others of* the Levites, all of whom were skillful with instruments of music, **13** *were* over the burden bearers and *were* overseers of all who did work in any kind of service. And *some* of the Levites *were* scribes, officers, and gatekeepers.

**14** Now when they brought out the money that was brought into the house of the Lord, Hilkiah the priest found the Book of the Law of the Lord *given* by Moses. **15** Then Hilkiah answered and said to Shaphan the scribe, “I have found the Book of the Law in the house of the Lord.” And Hilkiah gave the book to Shaphan. **16** So Shaphan carried the book to the king, bringing the king word, saying, “All that was committed to your servants they are doing. **17** And they have [d]gathered the money that was found in the house of the Lord, and have delivered it into the hand of the overseers and the workmen.” **18** Then Shaphan the scribe told the king, saying, “Hilkiah the priest has given me a book.” And Shaphan read it before the king.

**19** Thus it happened, when the king heard the words of the Law, that he tore his clothes. **20** Then the king commanded Hilkiah, Ahikam the son of Shaphan, [e]Abdon the son of Micah, Shaphan the scribe, and Asaiah a servant of the king, saying, **21** “Go, inquire of the Lord for me, and for those who are left in Israel and Judah, concerning the words of the book that is

found; for great *is* the wrath of the Lord that is poured out on us, because our fathers have not kept the word of the Lord, to do according to all that is written in this book.”

King Josiah subsequently received a powerful word, that God would protect Judah for the entirety of His reign...

In effect, Josiah became a wall of protection around His nation...

## **2 Chronicles 34:22-28**

**22** So Hilkiah and those the king *had appointed* went to Huldah the prophetess, the wife of Shallum the son of [f]Tokhath, the son of [g]Hasrah, keeper of the wardrobe. (She dwelt in Jerusalem in the Second Quarter.) And they spoke to her to that *effect*.

**23** Then she answered them, “Thus says the Lord God of Israel, ‘Tell the man who sent you to Me, **24** “Thus says the Lord: ‘Behold, I will bring calamity on this place and on its inhabitants, all the curses that are written in the book which they have read before the king of Judah, **25** because they have forsaken Me and burned incense to other gods, that they might provoke Me to anger with all the works of their hands. Therefore My wrath will be poured out on this place, and not be quenched.’ ” ’ **26** But as for the king of Judah, who sent you to inquire of the Lord, in this manner you shall speak to him, ‘Thus says the Lord God of Israel: “*Concerning* the words which you have heard— **27** because your heart was tender, and you humbled yourself before God when you heard His words against this place and against its inhabitants, and you humbled yourself before Me, and you tore your clothes and wept before Me, I also have heard *you*,” says the Lord. **28** “Surely 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 on this place and its inhabitants.” ’ ” So they brought back word to the king.



As a result of this prophecy, King Josiah was an extremely important person with respect to the well being of his family and his entire nation...

Likewise, each Christian who is sincerely following the Lord Jesus is an extremely important person in the spirit realm...

### **Ezequiel 22:30-31**

**30** So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one. **31** Therefore I have poured out My indignation on them; I have consumed them with the fire of My wrath; and I have recompensed their deeds on their own heads," says the Lord God.

Many times the Lord Jesus is not looking for a multitude in order to bring His blessings, including His hand of protection...

He's looking for even a single person..,

One person can make all the difference between keeping a family together or having that family be destroyed...

The same holds true for a church or other organization...

That is also true of a nation...

When you are a Josiah, it's even more important than ever that you take care not only of those that the Lord Jesus has placed under your care but also your own self so that God can keep using you to be that wall of protection for as long as possible...

Remember that you can't help others if you are no longer around or are too weak to take care of yourself...

Only carry the burden that is truly yours;

don't try to carry extra burdens...

### **Matthew 11:28-30**

**28** Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. **29** Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am [f]gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. **30** For My yoke *is* easy and My burden is light.”

Trying to eat right, get rest, exercise, and relax may not seem like spiritual activities, but they are in fact important...

For example, I am only going to fast if I find myself in a situation where fasting is warranted...

### **Matthew 17:14-21**

**14** And when they had come to the multitude, a man came to Him, kneeling down to Him and saying, **15** “Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is [c]an epileptic and suffers severely; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water. **16** So I brought him to Your disciples, but they could not cure him.”

**17** Then Jesus answered and said, “O [d]faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him here to Me.” **18** And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour.

**19** Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, “Why could we not cast it out?”

**20** So Jesus said to them, “Because of your [e]unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. **21** [f]However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting.”

Moreover, I am only going to get up extra early to pray if the Lord Jesus wakes me up...

### **Isaiah 62:6-7**

I have set watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem;

They shall [f]never hold their peace day or night.

You who [g]make mention of the Lord, do not keep silent,

**7**

And give Him no rest till He establishes

And till He makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth.

While sometimes the Lord Jesus wants us to take one of the night watches, He also promises us sufficient rest, not just for our souls but also for our bodies....

### **Psalms 127:1-2**

Unless the Lord builds the house,

They labor in vain who build it;

Unless the Lord guards the city,

The watchman stays awake in vain.

**2**

*It is vain for you to rise up early,*

*To sit up late,*

*To eat the bread of sorrows;*

*For so He gives His beloved sleep.*

Testimonio/Palabra Profética de la Hermana July:

“Me dijo luego: Hijo de hombre, he aquí que quebrantaré el sustento del pan en Jerusalén; y comerán el pan por peso y con angustia, y beberán el agua por medida y con espanto, para que al faltarles el pan y el agua, se miren unos a otros con espanto, y se consuman en su maldad.”

Ezequiel 4:16-17 RVR1960

<https://www.bible.com/149/ezk.4.16-17.rvr1960>

Este es un versículo que me he despertado hace días en mi mente y quería compartirlo, yo no sabía de que se trataba y lo leí y por eso se los comparto . BENDICIONES

\*\*\*Explicación Dada al Pastor Anthony

Es otra palabra de advertencia. Ya todos debemos tener nuestras despensas listas en caso de que haya escasez. Estados Unidos merece destrucción, solamente por los abortos. Y hay mucha otro pecado también.

Si no se aprueba Amy Coney Barrett para la Corte Suprema para comenzar a abolir al aborto legal, por ejemplo, es muy posible que Dios deje que el diablo traiga más disciplina sobre la nación. Puede ser que se empeore el COVID o que vengan cosas peores.

Además de mirar nuestras despensas, debemos de estar intercediendo por despertamiento espiritual (miren la oración que uso todos los domingos en nuestra página Web) y también debemos de estar ayunando por ello según El Espíritu Santo nos guíe.

Hermana July, puedo compartir este pasaje el domingo, si Dios me lo permite?

Muchas bendiciones,

Pastor Anthony