

LESSON PLAN

MANASSEH AND JOSIAH

2 Kings 21 – 23

Lesson Memory Verse: Matthew 7:21 - “**Not every one** that says to Me Lord, Lord, **shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he that does the will of my Father**, which is in heaven.” (Grades 1 & 2 memorize the portion in **bold**.)

Lesson Aim: We need to do the will of God; we do this by obeying Him with love and honor for Him.

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

KEY (for Attention): Would you like to be a king? What would you do if you were a king? (Let several students answer this question.) What do you think a king does? How old do you think a king needs to be? In our story today we will teach you about two boys who became kings – one was twelve and the other was eight. They were very young to be kings, but they were real kings of Judah. What would they have to do to please God and receive good things from Him? (They would have to do His will by obeying Him with love and honor for Him.) That is what we must do, too. Our memory verse will remind us that we must seek to do the will of God every day of our lives.

HE (for Authority): Our memory verse is Matthew 7:21. Doing the will of God is more than knowing His commands or even obeying His commands. Some people obey God’s commands unwillingly. Obeying God with an unwilling spirit is like a little boy that was told to sit down. He obeyed as he slowly sat down, but he said inside of him he was still standing up. Other people obey God’s commands for the wrong reasons. They expect their good works will earn them the right to enter Christ’s Kingdom. Jesus said there would be people that would do great religious works in His name, but He would not let them into His Kingdom because they did not do the will of God. In order for us to do the will of God, we must obey His commands because we love Him and want to honor Him.

Explain these phrases and words:

“Kingdom of Heaven” – Christ’s Kingdom; He brings it from Heaven to be on earth for 1000 years
“My Father” – Jesus Christ’s Father in Heaven

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word. Now let’s look at our Bible story and see how these two boy kings obeyed God. One king, whose name was Manasseh, did not obey God until the very end of his life; but the other king, Josiah, obeyed God from the he was made a king. Manasseh was punished by God, but He blessed Josiah with many good things.

I. Manasseh, the Wicked King (2 Kings 21)

A. Rejected God’s Laws (21:1-9)

Manasseh was religious, but he worshipped idols instead of the true God. It appears he did everything he could to disobey the laws of the true God. He was the son of one of Judah’s best kings (Hezekiah), but he became the worst king that Judah ever had. He even burned his baby son as a living sacrifice when he worshipped a god of fire. How could such a good king like Hezekiah have such a wicked son like Manasseh? There may be many reasons, but one thing is sure: each person is responsible for his actions. Manasseh showed that he loved his sins and despised the commands of God. He refused to obey Him with love and honor.

WE: If we love our sins and despise God, we can become as wicked as Manasseh. We must obey God’s commands with love and honor for Him so this does not happen to us.

B. Removed from God’s Blessings (21:10-15)

Manasseh was wicked and caused his nation to be wicked like him. For this God punished him and his nation. He said that He would give his nation into the hands of his enemies and let them destroy it completely.

WE: If we refuse to obey God, we will be punished just like Manasseh. If we refuse to do His will, we will lose the greatest blessing that God wants to give us; we will not be allowed to live in Christ’s Kingdom.

LESSON PLAN

What is the first command that we need to obey? (We should love God.) If we love God, we will receive Jesus as our Savior. When we receive Jesus as our Savior, He will give us the desire and the power to obey God's commands.

II. Josiah, the Good King (II Kings 22-23)

A. Repaired God's House (22:3-7)

Josiah wanted to please God by repairing His house and making it beautiful once again.

WE: We can show our love to God by the way we take care of His house.

B. Read God's Word (22:8-20)

The high priest found God's Word when they repaired God's house. He told the king that he had found God's Word and so Josiah wanted it read to him. After he heard what it said, he realized that he and his people had been very, very sinful and this made him very sad. He wanted to know what God would do to him and so he sent his servants to Huldah the prophetess. She told them that their sins were so bad that God would not save their country, but He would save them from their enemies as long as Josiah was alive because he was humble and wanted to obey Him.

WE: We will be given many good things from God when we love Him and His Word. If we love God and want to honor Him, we will want to keep His commands. Do you want to obey Him? This is proof that you are a true believer.

C. Reformed God's People (23:1-20)

Josiah had God's law read to all the people (23:1-2). He then promised the Lord that he and his people would keep all the commands of God's law (23:3). This is what he did. He destroyed all the idols that Manasseh had taught the people to worship while he was king. It was a lot of work, but he truly loved God and did not want his people to worship anything that would displease Him.

WE: If we love God, we will not want to do anything that will displease Him. When we read the Bible and learn about the things that displease God, we will stop doing them right away. We will clean up our lives like Josiah cleaned up his nation. We will do your best to obey God.

D. Restored God's Passover Feast (23:21-27)

Josiah learned from God's law that God wanted him to keep the Passover feast. This feast reminded them of the time when God used Moses set Israel free from Egypt. Josiah made it a great feast. No king before him had obeyed the Lord with all his heart as Josiah did, but his people did not seem to obey God as Josiah did. They prayed and did everything right, but their hearts did not seem to be in it. God knew this and, therefore, He would not save them from being destroyed by their enemies (23:26-27).

WE: We may look good to others, but God looks at our hearts. Do we really love God? Do we really want to keep His commands? He knows us; we cannot fool Him.

Be (for Action): Who was the king that did not want to please God and obey His commands? (Manasseh) Who was the king that wanted to obey the Lord? (Josiah) What did the people do that was right when Josiah was king? (They had all their idols smashed and they kept the Passover feast.) What was wrong with these people? (They did not seem to do these good things from their heart. They did them because Josiah commanded them to do them.) Do you love the Lord? If you do love the Lord, you will get rid of bad habits and bad language and bad books; you will stop watching bad T.V. shows; you will destroy bad pictures; you will stop laughing at bad jokes; you will not go with bad friends to sinful places. If you love the Lord, you will want to do those things that please God. You will want to keep His commands. If you love God, you will start obeying Him right away and keep on doing it every day of your life. Will you prove your love to God by keeping His commands starting today?