

“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 I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and heal their land.”
 2 Chronicles 7:14

| Commands from 2 Chronicles 7:14 | 2 Chronicles Chapters of Focus | King that Led in a National Revival |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| “humble themselves” | 34-35 | Josiah |
| “pray” | 17-20 | Jehoshaphat |
| “seek My face” | 14-16 | Asa |
| “turn from their wicked ways” | 29-32 | Hezekiah |

*Insight developed by Walter Kaiser, Bible Commentator

HUMILITY . . .

- The Greek word translated humility means “lowliness of mind”
- The Bible describes humility as lowliness, meekness, absence of self.
- What Jesus described to be “poor in Spirit” in Matthew 5
- A heart a _____, not just an outward demeanor
 - You can put on an outward show of humility and still have a heart full of pride and arrogance.
- Necessary requirement to enter into God’s kingdom, but also necessary to become “great” in God’s kingdom (Matt. 20:26-27)
- Greatest example of humility...Jesus... (Phil. 2:3)
- The men and women God chose to use in great ways throughout the bible had one dominant characteristic about their life... a humble, submissive heart.

Ex. **John the Baptist**- forerunner of Jesus
 “the thongs of his sandals I’m not worthy to untie”
 “He must become greater; I must become less.”

Ex. **Moses**- Numbers 12- “Moses was more humble than anyone else who ever lived”

JOSIAH, KING OF JUDAH . . .

- _____ years old when he became king of Judah (southern Israel)
- Reigned in Jerusalem for _____ years (640-609 B.C.)

- Took the throne over from his grandfather Manasseh(55 yr reign) and his father Amon (2 yr reign), both men and kings who did not fear God nor walk in His ways
- Judah was in spiritual shambles when Josiah begins
- Jeremiah, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, and Nahum all prophesied during Josiah’s reign

Four Displays of Humility in Josiah’s Life and Leadership . . .

1. Josiah sought the Lord while y_____. (v.3)

- At the age of 16, Josiah begins to cultivate a love for God in his heart
- By age 20, his character was strong enough in devotion to the Lord that he went into action to purge his nation

2. Josiah p_____ the nation the land of sin and idolatry. (v.3b—8)

- It takes humility and burden to begin to tear down the very things your grandfather and father had built up and elevated in the hearts of God’s people!

3. Josiah rightly r_____to the Word of God. (vv.14-21)

He has a choice:

- R_____the Word of God like his father and grandfather had done before him
- Ignore: tip his hat to the Book of the Law being important, but then practically tune it out from his life
- H_____ : a broken, contrite spirit that leads him to tear his robes

“Tearing of Robe”- a leader would only take this action when

- Received tragic news
- Time of weeping and mourning
- Clear recognition of sin against the Lord
- For years, the Book of the Law had been buried, rejected, and ignored by Israel with no sense of guilt among them
- Josiah sends one of his servants to find out the exact contents of what was written within it
- Josiah finds out that it’s not good news for Israel (vv.23-25) as they will face judgment for their idolatry and future exile in Babylon in the years to come

APPLICATION TODAY . . .

Our daily r_____ to the Word of God reveals much about the amount of humility within our hearts.

- To ignore God’s Word- when you know and believe it to be the truth and primary way God speaks to us today- is to live your life saying to God, “I can handle my life on my own. I’ve got everything under control just fine. I don’t need Your voice, Your direction, Your wisdom, or knowing Your will for my life.”
- Humility leads to greater dependence on the Lord, on the Word of God, and on the Spirit of God to lead, guide, and direct your life daily.

4. Josiah had a clear, h_____ view of who God is. (vv.26-27)

- The depth of your understanding of who God is has a direct impact on the depth of humility in your life or not.
- The Lord gives one word of affirmation of Josiah's life....that when he heard the Word of God his heart was **“responsive and you humbled yourself before the Lord.”** (v.19)
 - Some translations say “because your heart was tender” or “because your heart was penitent”
- There was a s_____ in Josiah's heart before God.
 - Not playing games with God
 - Clear awareness of who God is and who he was
 - Not pretending to be someone he knew he was not
 - High view of God and low view of himself

APPLICATION TODAY . . .

- **Many today have a low, shallow view of who God is....Therefore, people live with a puffed up, elevated view of s_____.**
 - The Lord is only needed in “worst case” situations
 - Only the blessings of the Lord are needed
- When you rightly understand the character of God, you see yourself clearly, humble yourself, and submit in obedience to Him daily.

“I'm hopelessly 'me centered.' The only way I get over me is staring at my Maker. The bigger He gets, the less big I need to feel.” Jimmy Needham, Christian singer and songwriter

One Final Truth . . .

God always honors humility.....God always hates and opposes p_____. (James 4:6)

“Now I will gather you to your ancestors, and you will be buried in peace. Your eyes will not see the disaster I am going to bring on this place and on those who live here.” 2 Chronicles 34:28

Isaiah 57:15: “For this is what the high and lofty One says, ‘He who lives forever, whose name is holy; I live in a high and holy place, but also with him who is contrite and lowly in spirit to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite.”

Isaiah 66:2 “Has not My hadn made all these things, and so they come into being? Declares the Lord. This is the one I esteem: he who is humble and contrite in spirit, who trembles at My word.”

Psalms 138:3 “Though the Lord is on high, he looks upon the lowly, but the proud He knows from afar.”

