Sermon Notes for August 31, 2014

It’s Time to Humble Ourselves before the Lord

II Chronicles 34-35

Introduction

Revival is a work of God.

God is the only source of revival, but he does use means to get our attention.

- Circumstances – Amos 4:11-16
- Sin and the consequences of sin - Judges
- Prayer – Acts 4:23-31
- The Word of God – Hebrews 4:12-13

Josiah reigned over Judah for 31 years, from 640-609 B.C.

Josiah became king when he was 8 years old and at age 16, he began to seek the Lord.

Even in the darkest of times, God is still at work.

I. It is time to humble ourselves before God. 34:1-13

At age 20, Josiah began a series of sweeping reforms.

He tore down the Baals, smashed the altars and Asherah poles and called on the people to worship the one true God.

At age 26, he called for the leaders to purify the land and the temple.

Josiah humbled himself before the Lord.

To humble ourselves is one of the conditions of II Chronicles 7:14. It is to yield ourselves wholly to God, admitting our brokenness and sin, and our desperate need for God.

Humbling ourselves also means turning to God from sin.

II. It is time to humble ourselves before God’s Word. 34:14-28

In the course of repairing the temple, Hilkiah the priest found the Book of the law which was given through Moses.

Shaphan read the book in the presence of the king.

When Josiah heard God’s Word:

- He tore his robes in repentance. Verse 19
He wanted to understand what it meant, so he sent Hilkiah to inquire of the Lord. Verse 21.

The message was one of judgment and mercy.

In the 1920s a revival took place in China, known as the Shantung Revival.

God used two people in particular, Jonathan Goforth a Canadian Presbyterian missionary and Marie Monson, a Norwegian Lutheran missionary.

Marie challenged the missionaries and others to get right with God.

Goforth preached the Word and called people to hear and obey it.

He believed that the Holy Spirit works in revival by illumining the Scriptures.

“The Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, is the only weapon which has ever been mightily used in revival.”

III. It is time to humble ourselves before God’s people. 34:29-33

The king called together all the elders, all the leaders and all the people.

The king renewed the covenant they had made with God.

Revival won’t last unless there is a deep change in our heart and a deep commitment to walk with the Lord according to his Word.

We need one another to stay strong.

“Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.” James 5:16

Conclusion

The fruit of the Shantung Revival was powerful and long lasting.

Do it again Lord! It’s time.

May David’s prayer be our own.

“Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.” Psalm 139:23-24