

# Repent.

The Man God Uses : Week 1 of 4 : MANUP.co

***God is looking for a MAN  
who will set things \_\_\_\_\_.***

## **2 Chronicles 34**

<sup>1</sup> Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem thirty-one years. <sup>2</sup> He did what was pleasing in the Lord's sight and followed the example of his ancestor David. *He did not turn away from doing what is right.* <sup>3</sup> During the eighth year of his reign, while he was still young, *Josiah began to seek the God* of his ancestor David.

**Q:** What made Josiah different than everyone else?

**Q:** What made him usable by God?

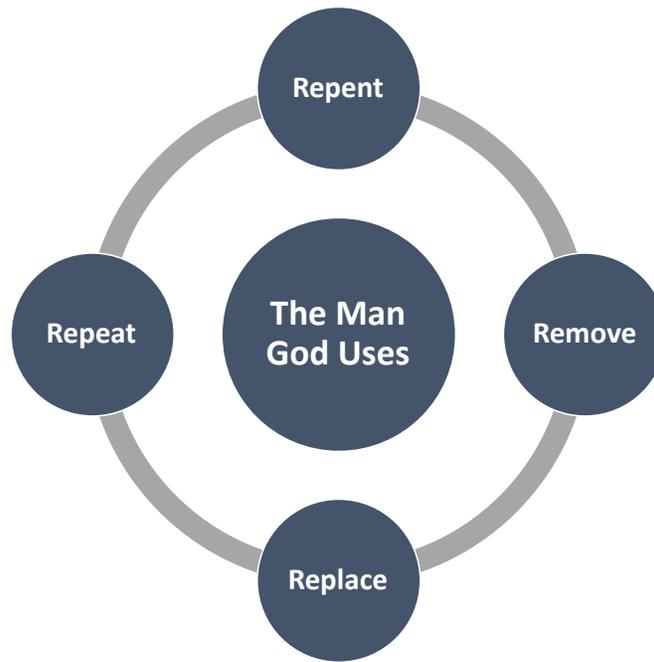
## **2 Kings 23**

<sup>25</sup> Never before had there been a king like Josiah, who *turned to the Lord* with all his heart and soul and strength, obeying all the laws of Moses. And there has never been a king like him since.

*The greatest king who ever lived was  
an 8 year-old BOY with a heart for GOD.*

## **Josiah did 3 things:**

- He \_\_\_\_\_ of his sin.
- He \_\_\_\_\_ the idols.
- He \_\_\_\_\_ God at the center.



\_\_\_\_\_ is the first step  
to becoming the man God uses.

### **We don't like to Repent:**

- Because we're \_\_\_\_\_.
- Because we're \_\_\_\_\_.
- Because we think we're \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Jeremiah 4**

<sup>3</sup> This is what the Lord says to the people of Judah and Jerusalem: "Plow up the hard ground of your hearts! Do not waste your good seed among thorns. <sup>4</sup> O people of Judah and Jerusalem, surrender your pride and your power. *Change your hearts before the Lord*, or my anger will burn like an unquenchable fire because of all your sins. <sup>5</sup> "Shout to Judah, and broadcast to Jerusalem! Tell them both to *sound the alarm* throughout the land: 'Run for your lives! Flee to the fortified cities!' <sup>6</sup> *Raise a signal flag* as a warning for Jerusalem: 'Flee now! Do not delay!' For I am bringing terrible destruction upon you from the north."

*Sin is telling God - \_\_\_\_.*

*Repentance is telling God - \_\_\_\_\_.*

**Jeremiah 3** (*Jeremiah was prophet during time of King Josiah*)

<sup>12</sup> This is what the Lord says, "O Israel, my faithless people, come home to me again, for I am merciful. I will not be angry with you forever. <sup>13</sup> Only acknowledge your guilt. Admit that you rebelled against the Lord your God and committed adultery against him by worshiping idols under every green tree. Confess that you refused to listen to my voice. I, the Lord, have spoken!"

<sup>14</sup> "Return home, you wayward children," says the Lord, "for I am your master. I will bring you back to the land of Israel . . . from wherever you are scattered. <sup>15</sup> And I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will guide you with knowledge and understanding."

<sup>22</sup> "My wayward children," says the Lord, "come back to me, and I will heal your wayward hearts." "Yes, we're coming," the people reply, "for you are the Lord our God."

### **Repentance is:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ with God about your \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ from your sin and \_\_\_\_\_ to God.
- An \_\_\_\_\_ not a \_\_\_\_\_.

### **God's Response:**

- I will \_\_\_\_\_ you.
- I will \_\_\_\_\_ you back.
- I will \_\_\_\_\_ you.
- I will \_\_\_\_\_ you.

# Questions.

**Q:** What do you think of when you hear the word “*repent*”?

**Q:** Have you ever thought of repenting as “*Good News*”?

**Q:** Which of these responses do you most need to hear from God right now?

\_\_\_\_\_ “*I forgive you.*”

\_\_\_\_\_ “*I will take you back.*”

\_\_\_\_\_ “*I will guide you.*”

\_\_\_\_\_ “*I will heal you.*”

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**Prayer:** God, thank you for hearing my prayer. Sometimes I avoid you because I’m ashamed or afraid of what you might say, but today I’m “*COMING HOME.*” I’m coming to you as a son who needs his father. A son who needs forgiveness, healing, and direction. I’m certainly not perfect, but I am repentant, and I’m ready for you to *change me* and *use me*. Amen.

## Josiah's Reform:

- He reigned in Jerusalem for 31 years.
- He did what was pleasing in the Lord's sight.
- He followed example of his ancestor David.
- He didn't turn away from doing right.
- He began to seek the Lord.
- He began to purify the land.
- He demolished the altars of Baal.
- He broke down the incense altars.
- He smashed and scattered the Asherah poles.
- He burned the bones of the pagan priests.
- He crushed the idols into dust.
- He cut down all the incense altars.
- He repaired the Temple of God.
- He gave money to restore the Temple.
- He hired carpenters and builders to restore the Temple.
- He restored what other Kings had allowed to fall into ruin.
- He listened to the Word of God.
- He repented of his sin, tore his clothes, and wept.
- He consulted with the Prophet.
- He humbled himself before God.
- He gathered all the people together.
- He read the Book of the Covenant to the people.
- He took his place of authority in the temple.
- He renewed the covenant with God and his people.
- He removed all the idols from the entire land.
- He celebrated the passover.
- He put the Levites back in their place.
- He provided the animals for sacrifice.
- He put the musicians back in their place.
- He put the gatekeepers back in their place.

## I'm a Church Kid:

- Actually it's worse . . . I'm a Preacher's Kid. (PK)
- Grew up in a Baptist church in south Georgia.
- My dad was our pastor, my grandfather led the singing, my grandmother played the piano, and my mom pinched me in the leg when I wasn't paying attention.
- We went to church Sunday School, Sunday Morning, Sunday Night and Wednesday night.
- We wore a suit, and tie, and dress socks.
- We didn't run in church, talk in church, pass notes in church, and definitely didn't drink coffee or eat donuts in church.
- We brought our bibles.
- We sang from the hymnal.
- We gave our tithe.
- The church was the Lord's House and you don't mess with the Lord's house.
- Except for that one time that I was leading Vacation Bible School at my dad's church and we got a little carried away during the skit time.
- I did a **CANNON BALL into the church baptistry!!**
- And within days, I was meeting with the deacons.
- The church is the Lord's House and you don't mess with the Lord's House!!

## Can you imagine a church that:

- Had X-Rated movies playing on their screens.
- Back-Stage room full of prostitutes.
- Foyers were filled with psychics and witches.
- Special place down front where you could throw your babies into a fire-pit to keep the gods happy.

## That's where our Story begins:

- It's 687 BC and Manasseh was the King of Judah
- The Nation of Israel had split into 2 Kingdoms after Solomon:  
10 Northern tribes of Israel - capital of Samaria  
2 Southern tribes of Judah - capital of Jerusalem
- Manasseh was the 14th King of Judah and the laws of Jehovah God were replaced with idols, prostitutes, and child sacrifices.
- The people of God were off the rails.
- King after King did evil, but it culminated with Manasseh.
- 2 Kings 21:9 claimed that King Manasseh was ***"more pagan than the pagans"***
- Goes on to say that he was murdering so many innocent people that the entire Kingdom of Judah was flowing with blood.
- He reigned for 55 years!
- Only to be replaced by his son, Amon, who was just as evil.
- In fact, he was so evil, that after 2 years as King . . . he was assassinated by his own officials.
- The Kingdom of God was a "hot mess" and . . .

*God was looking for a man  
to set things RIGHT.*

*Josiah was that man!*