

Day 78 – May 17

As we near the end of our study for this year, we look back on the books of Joshua, Judges, Ruth, and the records of the Samuels and Kings. And as we do, we can see the rollercoaster that was the relationship of God with His people. Joshua did horrible things but obeyed God and secured the Land. The Judges were leaders in an ever-declining succession, with one judge just a little worse than the one before. Then we get the story of Ruth, a Moabite who loved like God loves, and is loved by Boaz in return. And finally, the story of the kings is the true rollercoaster, with some kings ruling decades and others days, some dying comfortably at home while others die in battle and still others are assassinated by their own people. We see some following God's laws and other ignoring them and yet others actively ruling against them.

Until Josiah. Today, as we near the end of our study, we find a true return to God's ways and God's laws. Most of today's reading is about the work Josiah did to return Judah to obedience. He tore down altars. He desecrated pagan temples. He killed pagan priests. He kicked out mediums and magicians. He reinstated the laws of God and the practices of Judaism. And in the end, Israel returned to God.

What would it look like today for us to return to the ways of Jesus? We wouldn't return to the Old Testament laws but to the teachings of Jesus. So what would that look like? Which of Jesus' teachings are we ignoring, or even fighting against in our society today? Which need to be revamped and which just retaught altogether?

And what are you going to do about it?