

Staying focused spiritually

2 Kings 23 (p. 312)

I. COMMIT TO GOD'S WORD – JOSIAH LED HIS PEOPLE TO FOLLOW GOD'S WORD (2 KINGS 23:1-3).

- A. Josiah gathered leaders and others to hear God's word (1-2).
- B. Josiah read God's word and led them to recommit to it (3).
 - Godly leaders urge others to commit to God's word.

II. ABOLISH FALSE WORSHIP – JOSIAH REMOVED IDOLATRY EVERYWHERE HE COULD (2 KINGS 23:4-20).

- A. He rid Jerusalem and Judah of idols and pagan priests (4-7).
- B. He defiled and destroyed false worship sites in Judah (8-15).
- C. He destroyed false worship sites and burned the bones of false prophets in Samaria (16-20; 1 Kings 13:2).
 - Godly leaders root out evil for God's sake and for others.

III. PURSUE TRUE WORSHIP – JOSIAH REINSTITUTED THE FEAST OF PASSOVER (2 KINGS 23:21-27).

- A. Josiah initiated a huge Passover worship celebration (21-23).
- B. Josiah sincerely obeyed God's word like no other king, but his obedience did not stop God's coming judgment (24-27).
 - Godly leaders pursue God regardless of personal benefit.

IV. AVOID DISTRACTIONS – JOSIAH FOOLISHLY ENGAGED IN EGYPT'S WAR (2 KINGS 23:28-30; 2 CHRON. 35:20-27).

- A. Egypt went to help Assyria battle Babylon (29a).
- B. Josiah foolishly tried to stop Egypt and was killed (29b-30).
 - Godly leaders must stay focused on God's priorities.