



Treasure God's Word

Read 2 Chronicles 34:1-2, 14-21, 29-33

Introduction:

How quickly the Word was lost in Judah! It had only been two generations since good king Hezekiah reigned! What can you think of that was valued in the past and no longer has the same value today? Why is that the case?

The idea here is that sometimes things aren't valued because we have something better (e.g. horse has been replaced by car), but some things aren't valued because they have been with something idolatrous (e.g. Look at the landscape of a city from 1850. What are the tallest buildings? The churches because the tallest buildings are built to the gods of a city. What are they now? Financial institutions, luxury apartments, etc.). The Word has infinite value in every generation because it's the one thing needful!

Into the Text:

1. In verse 19, we see the law cut King Josiah to the heart when he tore his robes. However, fear of the law is not what motivated a change in behavior. We see that motivation in verse 32. Describe it.

The covenant of God is not only the two-way covenant (bi-lateral) but the covenant of the fathers is a covenant of grace (uni-lateral).

2. What were the effects of the Word of God on the people?

The people desired to follow the Lord and obey everything that was commanded. It inspired reform throughout Israel led by a godly king.

Applying It:

1. Often in our everyday lives, we see the law motivate behavior but not change hearts. Give examples.

Police enforcement of laws. Students not cheating on homework for fear of reprisal. In other denominations, ecclesiastical law about dress and behavior changes actions but not hearts. Even in

our own homes, how often is our discipline only an enforcement of the law to change behavior?

2. In what ways can people see that the gospel has impacted your life?

Finally, the gospel is what motivates me to be a constantly improving husband, father, employee, citizen, neighbor, etc. (i.e. vocations). Even when we discipline, we can make sure our children know that they are forgiven. In my everyday conversation, my words can be peppered with what Jesus has done and what it means for my life.

3. What can we do to ensure the Word is treasured for generations to come?

First and foremost, I can cherish it for myself. That alone will have an impact on others. Think about your own Christian role models like a parent or a friend or a pastor that showed you the value of the Word. You can volunteer to help with Sunday School and support local congregation in those efforts—bringing kids to confirmation class, Sunday school, and youth group. You can actively support and pray for our Synod, its work, and the training of the next generation of called workers (i.e. ministerial education).

4. Look at your challenge card. How do each of those suggested commitments work toward this goal?

Look through the card—discuss how this works and encourage people to fill out and put in plate, considering how each commitment does this. Then explain how we'll be encouraging each other—assigned encouragers from others that have committed.