Seeking God in Your Youth

Kris Emerson · 2 Chronicles 34:1–21

INTRODUCTION

- Statistics show that in America, 75% of our young people leave the church.
- I have four children. And I can't do it. I can't watch three of them walk away. I don't want to watch one of them walk away.

1 Eight Years Old: He Did Right

2 Chronicles 34:1–2

- Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned 31 years in Jerusalem.
- He did right in the sight of the Lord and walked in the ways of his father David, and did not turn aside to the right or to the left.
- But I tell you what we are expecting. The absence of poor behavior.

2 Sixteen: He Began to Seek God

2 Chronicles 34:3

- In the eighth year of his reign, while he was still a youth, he began to seek the God of his father David.
- But there came a teenage year when he made a decision for himself.
- The great secret to faith is you making at whatever age the personal choice to seek fellowship with God.

3 Twenty: Tear Down Things That Don't Belong

2 Chronicles 34:3–7

- In the twelfth year, he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of the high places, the Asherim, the carved images, the molten images.
- He tore down the things around him that didn't belong.
- Maturing, even in your younger age, is the ability to inspect what's going on around you and identify things that don't belong and push them away.
- You have to make choices to tear down things that don't belong, and nobody can tell you what those things are.

4 Twenty-Six: A Time to Build Up

2 Chronicles 34:8–11; 2 Chronicles 34:14–21

- In the 18th year of his reign, so he's 26, when he had purged the land and the house, he sent Shaphan to repair the house of the Lord.
- But fourthly, we have to build up in its place things that are right.

- Hilkiah the priest found the book of the law of the Lord given by Moses.
- When the king heard the words of the law, he tore his clothes.
- If I could give young people one piece of advice that works for all, get a white knuckle hold on that book.

5 Not About Your Age, Family, or Culture

- Making a difference for God has nothing to do with your age. It is in no way attached to your age.
- Whether your parents are the most godly people on this earth or not godly at all, that has very little to do with who you choose to become.
- I think God wants us to serve the Lord in a difficult culture so that light can be visible in the darkness.
- Your choices belong to you. And your culture has nothing to do with that.

6 About Your Love for God, the Book, and Choices

Matthew 22:37–38; Deuteronomy 17; 1 Timothy 4:12

- It's about your love for God. It's not about this church's love for God. It's not about your family's love for God.
- You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the foremost commandment.
- King, you want to be successful? You write the law. You read the law all the days of your life, and you do what it says.
- He's famous because his love for God and his reading led to terrific choices.
- Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather, speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity. Show yourself an example of those who believe.

THE CHALLENGE

Who loves God enough that you would read his word, and when Jesus said to put on a relationship with him by belief and baptism and be saved, how many of you are ready to do that because Jesus is worthy?

MY NOTES