

UNSUNG HEROES PART 3

JOSIAH

Big Idea:

One person who is fully surrendered to God can change the direction of an entire generation.

1. God Often Calls and Uses the Very Young

2 Chronicles 34:1, NIV

Josiah was eight years old when he became king.

2. Young People Are Not Promised Old Age

2 Chronicles 34:1, NIV

Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem thirty-one years.

3. Young People Can Live for the Lord

2 Chronicles 34:2, NIV

He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord and followed the ways of his father David, not turning aside to the right or to the left.

2 Chronicles 34:3, NIV

In the eighth year of his reign, while he was still young, he began to seek the God of his father David.

2 Chronicles 33:1, NIV

Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem fifty-five years.

2 Chronicles 33:2, NIV

He did evil in the eyes of the Lord, following the detestable practices of the nations the Lord had driven out before the Israelites.

2 Chronicles 33:3, NIV

He rebuilt the high places his father Hezekiah had demolished; he also erected altars to the Baals and made Asherah poles. He bowed down to all the starry hosts and worshiped them.

2 Chronicles 33:4, NIV

He built altars in the temple of the Lord, of which the Lord had said, “My Name will remain in Jerusalem forever.”

2 Chronicles 33:5, NIV

In both courts of the temple of the Lord, he built altars to all the starry hosts.

2 Chronicles 33:6, NIV

He sacrificed his children in the fire in the Valley of Ben Hinnom, practiced divination and witchcraft, sought omens, and consulted mediums and spiritists. He did much evil in the eyes of the Lord, arousing his anger.

2 Chronicles 33:9, NIV

Manasseh led Judah and the people of Jerusalem astray, so that they did more evil than the nations the Lord had destroyed before the Israelites.

2 Chronicles 33:21, NIV

Amon was twenty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem two years.

2 Kings 21:20, NIV

He did evil in the eyes of the Lord, as his father Manasseh had done.

2 Kings 21:21, NIV

He followed completely the ways of his father, worshiping the idols his father had worshiped, and bowing down to them.

2 Kings 21:22, NIV

He forsook the Lord, the God of his ancestors, and did not walk in obedience to him.

2 Kings 23:25, NIV

Neither before nor after Josiah was there a king like him who turned to the Lord as he did—with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his strength, in accordance with all the Law of Moses.

4. Young People Can Impact the Old

2 Chronicles 34:3, NIV

In his twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of high places, Asherah poles and idols.

2 Chronicles 34:4, NIV

Under his direction the altars of the Baals were torn down; he cut to pieces the incense altars that were above them, and smashed the Asherah poles and the idols. These he broke to pieces and scattered over the graves of those who had sacrificed to them.

2 Chronicles 34:5, NIV

He burned the bones of the priests on their altars, and so he purged Judah and Jerusalem.

2 Chronicles 34:8, NIV

In the eighteenth year of Josiah's reign, to purify the land and the temple, he sent Shaphan son of Azaliah and Maaseiah the ruler of the city, with Joah son of Joahaz, the recorder, to repair the temple of the Lord his God.

2 Chronicles 34:21, NIV

Great is the Lord's anger that is poured out on us because those who have gone before us have not kept the word of the Lord; they have not acted in accordance with all that is written in this book."

5. Young People Can Change the World

2 Chronicles 34:33, NIV

Josiah removed all the detestable idols from all the territory belonging to the Israelites, and he had all who were present in Israel serve the Lord their God. As long as he lived, they did not fail to follow the Lord, the God of their ancestors.