

# Lost and Found - The Word of God

Lesson 01 in the series: "Deep Tracks"

## A. Eighteen years into the reign of King Josiah, he was made aware of an unimaginable discovery.

"In the eighteenth year of his reign, after he had purified the land and the Temple, Josiah appointed Shaphan...to repair the Temple of the LORD his God. They gave Hilkiah the high priest the money that had been collected by the Levites who served as gatekeepers at the Temple of God... He entrusted the money to the men assigned to supervise the restoration of the LORD's Temple. Then they paid the workers who did the repairs and renovation of the Temple...While they were bringing out the money collected at the LORD's Temple, Hilkiah the priest found the Book of the Law of the LORD that was written by Moses. Hilkiah said to Shaphan the court secretary, 'I have found the Book of the Law in the LORD's Temple!' Then Hilkiah gave the scroll to Shaphan." 2 Chronicles 34:8-15

"Shaphan took the scroll to the king and reported, 'Your officials are doing everything they were assigned to do. The money that was collected at the Temple of the LORD has been turned over to the supervisors and workmen.' Shaphan also told the king, 'Hilkiah the priest has given me a scroll.'" 2 Chronicles 34:16-18a (NLT)

## B. Unbelievably, the Word of God had been lost for 75 years through neglect and apathy.

"Manasseh led the people of Judah and Jerusalem to do even more evil than the pagan nations that the LORD had destroyed when the people of Israel entered the land. The LORD spoke to Manasseh and his people, but they ignored all his warnings." 2 Chronicles 33:9-10 (NLT)

"When he sits on the throne as king, he must copy for himself this body of instruction on a scroll in the presence of the Levitical priests. He must always keep that copy with him and read it daily as long as he lives. That way he will learn to fear the LORD his God by obeying all the terms of these instructions and decrees. This regular reading will prevent him from becoming proud and acting as if he is above his fellow citizens. It will also prevent him from turning away from these commands in the smallest way. And it will ensure that he and his descendants will reign for many generations in Israel." Deuteronomy 17:18-20 (NLT)

"Come and listen to my counsel. I'll share my heart with you and make you wise. I called you so often, but you wouldn't come. I reached out to you, but you paid no attention. You ignored my advice and rejected the correction I offered...For they hated knowledge and chose not to fear the LORD. They rejected my advice and paid no attention when I corrected them. Therefore, they must eat the bitter fruit of living their own way, choking on their own schemes." Proverbs 1:23-25,29-31 (NLT)

## C. King Josiah demonstrates how we should value and respond to God's Word.

1. We should humbly receive the Word.

"...So Shaphan read it to the king. When the king heard what was written in the Law, he tore his clothes in despair." 2 Chronicles 34:18-19 (NLT)

2. We should seek to understand what it means.

"Then he gave these orders to Hilkiah, Ahikam son of Shaphan, Acbor son of Micaiah, Shaphan the court secretary, and Asaiah the king's personal adviser: 'Go to the Temple and speak to the LORD for me and for all the remnant of Israel and Judah. Inquire about the words written in the scroll that has been found. For the LORD's great anger has been poured out on us because our ancestors have not obeyed the word of the LORD. We have not been doing everything this scroll says we must do.'" 2 Chronicles 34:20-21 (NLT)

3. We should share God's Word with others.

"And the king went up to the Temple of the LORD with all the people of Judah and Jerusalem, along with the priests and the Levites—all the people from the greatest to the least. There the king read to them the entire Book of the Covenant that had been found in the LORD's Temple." 2 Chronicles 34:30 (NLT)

4. We should do what God's Word says - no matter the cost.

"...He pledged to obey the LORD by keeping all his commands, laws, and decrees with all his heart and soul. He promised to obey all the terms of the covenant that were written in the scroll."

2 Chronicles 34:31 (NLT)

#### **D. How can I value God's Word and prevent neglect and apathy?**

1. Reflect on the value and benefits of the Word of God.

"Truly, I love your commands **more than gold**, even the finest gold." Psalm 119:127 (NLT)

"Turn my eyes from worthless things and give me **life** through your word." Psalm 119:37 (NLT)

"I will walk in **freedom**, for I have devoted myself to your commandments." Psalm 119:45 (NLT)

"...your word is my source of **hope**." Psalm 119:114 (NLT)

"As pressure and stress bear down on me, I find **joy** in your commands." Psalm 119:143 (NLT)

"Those who love your instructions have great **peace** and do not stumble." Psalm 119:165 (NLT)

2. Reflect on the character of the God of the Word.

"I reflect at night on who you are, O LORD; therefore, I obey your instructions. This is how I spend my life: obeying your commandments." Psalm 119:55-56 (NLT)

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#### **Connect Group Questions:**

1. Were you familiar with the idea of a deep track? If so, what is your favorite deep track off an album?
2. Have you ever lost something of great value to you? How long did it take for you to realize it was missing, and what did you do to find it?
3. We can all go through times of neglect and apathy towards God's word. Read Deuteronomy 17:18-20. Why was the King commanded to read daily from his copy of the Word? How can the wisdom of this passage prevent you from neglecting and becoming apathetic towards God's Word?
4. Discuss the following ways Josiah valued and responded to God's Word. Which of these is easiest for you, and which is the most difficult for you?
  - We should humbly receive the Word.
  - We should seek to understand what it means.
  - We should share God's Word with others.
  - We should do what God's Word says - no matter the cost.
5. Look up Psalm 119:162. In what ways is God's Word a great treasure to you?
6. Why does reflecting on the character of God proceed true obedience to God's Word?