

Sunday Service Sermons

01 January 2023

Finding a lost Treasure

Text: "Hilkiah the high priest said to Shaphan the scribe, I have found the book of the law in the house of the Lord." *2 Kings 22:8*.

During the reign of King Josiah a great discovery was made.

Hilkiah the priest announced to Shaphan the scribe, during the time that the temple was being repaired, "I have found the book of the law in the house of the Lord."

From that simple statement occurs one of the most interesting happenings in the Old Testament. Not only did this discovery have significance then, but it has a message for today.

Finding the lost book, or rediscovering the Bible, is an especially appropriate message for the beginning of a new year.

We can consider this great discovery in two ways.

Rediscovering the Bible historically.

The discovery of the lost book.

Looking at the times we see that Josiah was the grandson of Manasseh one of the wickedest kings of Judah.

During his reign, the nation was flooded with idolatry and immorality.

The worship of Baal was restored in a land that was filled with sorcerers, mediums, and star worshipers.

Violence reigned; the temple of God was neglected.

The king and the people had heard the prophets' words, but they rebelled against the God of their fathers.

Josiah became king when he was eight years of age.

He reigned for thirty-one years.

He was righteous before God, loyal to his heritage, and dedicated to God throughout his reign.

The influence of godly people prompted him to seek the Lord and repair the temple.

While this was happening, the lost book was found.

The book found was called the book of the Law.

It was most likely part or all of the book of Deuteronomy.

It was God's Word discovered anew!

It had been lost for some time under a pile of stones in the temple or in one of the chambers, where it had remained unnoticed for many years.

Wherever it was, it is quite evident that the people of God had not been reading the Scriptures as they should have been.

The dynamic response to its discovery.

Josiah's response is described in four ways.

1. Josiah had it read (*2 Kings 22:11*).

The first step toward a personal discovery of God's Word is a willingness to read it or hear it read. Josiah's heart was tender, and he humbled himself before the Lord.

2. Josiah responded to the message of the book (*2 Kings 22:11*).

He was so moved by what he heard that he tore his clothes in grief and repentance.

3. Josiah read the book to all the people (*2 Kings 23:1-2*).

God spoke to their hearts as he did to Josiah's.

They were convinced of forgotten vows, and they renewed the covenant of the nation to the Lord.

4. Revival came in response to finding the book.

The temple was cleansed of heathen worship, and the land was cleansed of idolatry.

Immorality was stamped out.

The observance of the Passover was renewed.

Rediscovering God's book brought new leadership, new purpose, and a new spirit of worship to the people.

May we remember that the Word of God is powerful!

It kindles fire in our hearts.

It leads to life and creates light by which to live.

It is God's Word to us!

Many people seem to have lost their Bibles in today's world.

Christians can lose their Bibles not just physically but spiritually.

If you are not reading your Bible with meaning, it is as lost to you as was the Word of God to the people of Judah.

You may "lose your Bible" by turning aside to wealth, pleasure, ambitions, or success.

But you can rediscover God's Word!

Open your Bible and begin to read it, and a new spiritual day will be yours.

Rediscovering the Bible presently.

You can rediscover the Bible in several ways.

Rediscover the Bible authoritatively,

The Bible is not an authority on science or history; it is an authority on spiritual things.

It is not just a book of religion; it is divine revelation.

It is the book of redemption, the book of divine inspiration.

It reveals God to us.

The Bible is our final authority in life, the authoritative basis of our faith.

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe said, "When I go to hear a preacher preach, I may not agree with what he says, but I want him to believe it."

We need something to stand on for our faith and practice.

The Bible is the answer.

Rediscover the Bible personally.

It has the power to speak to us personally.

The Holy Spirit will open the Word to our hearts as we open our hearts to the Word.

Jesus did this for the disciples on the road to Emmaus as he explained the Scriptures about his coming.

When their eyes were opened, they recognized him and said, "Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way?" (*Luke 24:32*)

Jesus still does that today in our hearts through the Spirit.

Rediscover the Bible practically.

One goal for our lives should be a renewed emphasis on the Bible.

Hear it as *Proverbs 1:5* says, "A wise person will hear, and will increase learning."

Read it.

We forget 90 to 95 percent of what we hear.

So read the Bible for yourself.

Read it with a searching spirit.

Read it in faith.

Read it for fellowship with the heavenly Father.

Read it prayerfully.

Study it.

We forget 70 percent of what we read so study the Scriptures personally using a notebook to take notes on what you discover.

Study it whenever you have the opportunity.

Memorize it and hide it in your heart.

Memorize verses, chapters, and whole sections of Scripture.

It is a powerful aid in times of need.

The more you know the more you can conquer what comes against you.

Then meditate on it.

The Psalmist said that the person who meditates on the Word day and night is blessed. (*Psalm 1:2*)

Get up in the morning thinking about it.

Go to bed at night meditating on it.

The Bible becomes a living book to us when we experience its truth and life for ourselves.

Bishop E Berggrav of the Lutheran Church in Norway spent most of World War II in a Nazi concentration camp.

It was there that he found Christ in the pages of the Bible.

His reading it aloud brought the reality of Christ to his life so that his faith was restored and his spirit renewed.

Discover the Bible for yourself.

Commit yourself to God's Word this year.

It brings new life.

Life with meaning and purpose beyond self.

It makes you a partner with God in bringing the kingdom of God to earth.

It helps you become generous in helping others.

It helps you forgive that you can be forgiven.

It protects you from evil.

It opens your hands to receive your daily bread.

It lays up for yourself treasures in heaven.

It prepares you for the kingdom that comes at the end of this life.

And it makes you part of the continuing ministry of Jesus "The Christ".