**What Is This?**

**Introduction:**

At the Gold City Gem Mine in Franklin, North Carolina customers pay a small fee for a “bucket of dirt” out of the mine. The dirt contains rocks, usually worthless. The joy is in the treasure hunting and occasionally a real gemstone out of the mine is found. In July of 1995, a third-grader named Griffin McCurry, paid for just such a bucket of dirt. As you might expect, it didn’t look as if there was any hidden treasure; but there was a rock in it that the boy kept just because he liked the shape. People Magazine reported that it was a saleswoman from the jewelry store at the mine who noticed the rock and gave it a closer inspection. As it turned out the 1,104 carat sapphire had a value of approximately $45,000.

Everybody likes a good treasure story. The story of the discovery of the Law in the Temple during Josiah’s renovation is about as good as they come; because God’s Word is a treasure that is priceless.

**Text:** II Kings 22-23

**Body:**

 **I. Environment Is No Excuse** (Verses 1-2)

* The father of Josiah was Amon. (II Kings 21:25-26) Amon was evil like his father, Manasseh. (II Kings 21:19-22) He allowed human sacrifices, brought idols into the temple, used mediums and necromancers, and forsook the Lord God.
* Josiah grew up in this household environment . Despite the wickedness of his parents; he still chose to do right. Israelite parents had an obligation to teach their children to love and obey God. (Deuteronomy 6:6-9)
* Josiah chose not to let his parent’s evil ways define who he was and what he would become. He rose above it and made his own decisions. (II Kings 22:19)
* Like Josiah, if the religion of our forefathers is wrong, then we need to leave it forever. (Matthew 10:37)

**II. The Law Was Lost** (Verse 8)

* Where? In the temple! Josiah then received the book of the Law. (Verses 10-13)
* Something had replaced the Word. Today in many congregations, the law of Christ is lost. (Romans 8:2) Opinions, traditions, psychology, self-help, philosophies of men, fluff, feel-good sermons have become replacements for God’s Word. (Matthew 15:6b-9)
* There had been a famine of the Word. (Amos 8:11-12) But the Word was their most precious possession. (Psalm 19:7-11) It had not become obsolete. (Hebrews 4:12)

**III. Josiah’s Heart Could Be Touched** (Verse 11)

* Josiah’s repentance led to reform. (II Kings 23:1-20)
* The Passover was restored. (II Kings 23:21-25)
* The Word of God has power to convict. (Isaiah 55:11, Proverbs 6:23)
* All must have a tender heart. (Acts 2:36-37) “Good soil”
* Receive the Word. (James 1:21)

**Conclusion:**

The Bible is precious to us. Let us always be mindful if its value.

Bobby Stafford

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