

Weekly Word

April 28, 2008

By Mary Ruth Stone

Devotion

Wise Man, Wise Woman: Josiah and Huldah

[Note: This month's devotions celebrate the wisdom of mature women and highlight men in scripture who were wise enough to accept it.]

The young King Josiah of Judah came to the throne during a time when the nation had left following Jehovah and had given themselves to the worship of idols. Josiah himself "... did what was right in the sight of the Lord. . . ." It was under his reign that Hilkiyah the high priest found the Book of the Law in the house of the Lord. When Josiah heard the words of the book, he tore his garments in fear and humility and sent his priests and messengers to inquire of the Lord.

Then Hilkiyah and his colleagues sought the wisdom of a woman, the prophetess Huldah. She was not hesitant to tell them the word of the Lord concerning judgment that would come to Judah because of idolatry. However, she said that God would not bring judgment against King Josiah because his "... heart was tender, and you humbled yourself before the Lord . . ." [2 Kings 22:19].

Josiah restored true worship to Judah. The king committed himself to obeying the word of God, and the nation of Judah followed his lead. They renewed their commitment to the covenant as reported in His word. The idols and their implements of worship were destroyed. Nothing associated with idolatry was spared. He led the people in keeping the Passover.

At Josiah's death, he was mourned by his nation including the prophet Jeremiah. The greatest thing Josiah did was to lead his people away from idolatry and back to worship of the true God. Hilkiyah the high priest did a great thing in finding the word of God and in bringing it to the young king. Hilkiyah brought together the king and the prophetess. The prophetess Huldah boldly delivered the word of the Lord to a king who took her seriously. His devotion to the written word and the spoken word allowed his people to repent before the judgment of God came.

What a wise king! What a wise priest! What a wise prophetess!
Synergistic wisdom brought their people to renewal of the covenant!

Scripture

"Then the king . . . made a covenant . . . to follow the Lord and to keep His commandments . . . with all his heart and all his soul . . . and all the people took a stand for the covenant" (2 Kings 23:3).

This 'n That

"When men and women can see one another's gifts, they see other aspects of God's image, aspects they themselves cannot reflect. Then, women and men become collaborators in what it means to be human. . . ."

— Joan Chittester

Prayer

Dear Lord,

Help me to run to your Word and to people who are wise in your Word when I am in dark places. Amen.

Hearing,
Mary Ruth