

“So Hilkiah the priest, Ahikam, Acbor, Shaphan, and Asaiah went to the New Quarter of Jerusalem to consult with the prophet Huldah. She was the wife of Shallum son of Tikvah, son of Harhas, the keeper of the Temple wardrobe.” 2 Kings 22:14 NLT

## lectio // 2 Kings 22:3-20

New King, and a new way of doing things. Josiah became king at eight...EIGHT. He reigned for 31 years, so he was almost forty when he died. But at 26 yrs old something extraordinary began to happen. He started inquiring about the nation's pride and joy, their most important building - the temple. The temple had not been a part of his childhood nor his upbringing. This curiosity led to a refurbishment of the temple, a repentance and refreshing of the spiritual life of Judah. Note: as he is telling the high priest to begin repairs he says something interesting about the men in charge. He says, "But don't require the construction supervisors to keep account of the money they receive, for they are honest and trustworthy men." Had their been corruption? Most likely. With neglect you'll find fear, and with fear you'll find shortcuts to benefit individuals over the nation. The high priest also shakes things up by consulting a prophet, not just any prophet - a woman, Huldah! She, like most of the prophets of that time, tell the high priest and the king, God's gonna rip this city a new one! Well, you know God's not happy about all the disobedience, breaking of promises and a broken city, nation and people. However, the prophecy is POSTPONED until after Josiah's reign. Oh, it happened, just AFTER the young king dies. Why? Because Josiah found the scrolls, discovered that they had been disobedience, made a physical demonstration of his sorrow and repaired the temple, restoring the ability for people to connect with God on God's terms at the time. He was sorry for things BEFORE his reign, BEFORE he could do anything about it. Can you be sorry for the way a nation mishandled their relationship with God BEFORE you even existed? Josiah apparently did and also moved toward God, not further away from him.

Dad,

I am often grieved for things the Church did either before I existed or too young to do much about it. I am neither a King, nor a prophet, but I am so sad for much of our sin and selfishness as the leaders of the church. It's as if the people of God, the Church, needs to be repaired and refurbished. I am sorry for tailoring the gospel to fit our Americano ways, instead of the other way around. I am sorry we have hurt so many in the name of truth and some kind of quest for religious purity. Please help us BE the holy, spotless, called ones you desire for a world that needs to see a reflection of Jesus in us, in our gatherings.

## contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root