

Sermon Mark S. Aites
THE OLD & YOUNG PROPHET

TEXT: 1 KINGS 13

INTRODUCTION:

1. Our lesson takes place during the period of history referred to as the divided kingdom.
2. It was during the time of the foolish kings:
 - 1) Rehoboam: *But he forsook the counsel of the old men, which they had given him, and consulted with the young men that were grown up with him, and which stood before him (1 Kings 12:8).*
 - 2) Jereboam: **(1 Kings 12:28-33)**
 1. Set up calves in Dan & Bethel.
 2. Made shrines on the high places.
 3. Priests from every tribe (instead of Levi).
 4. Ordained a feast; sacrifices to the calves.
3. **13th chapt.** God sent a young prophet to cry out against the sinful work of Jereboam: *And he cried against the altar in the word of the LORD, and said, O altar, altar, thus saith the LORD; Behold, a child shall be born unto the house of David, Josiah by name; and upon thee shall he offer the priests of the high places that burn incense upon thee, and men's bones shall be burnt upon thee.*
13:3 *And he gave a sign the same day, saying, This is the sign which the LORD hath spoken; Behold, the altar shall be rent, and the ashes that are upon it shall be poured out. (1 Kings 13:2-3).*
 - 1) It should be noted that 351 years after this event, Josiah fulfilled this prophecy.
 - 2) **2 Kings 23:16** *And as Josiah turned himself, he spied the sepulchres that were there in the mount, and sent, and took the bones out of the sepulchres, and burned them upon the altar, and polluted it, according to the word of the LORD which the man of God proclaimed, who proclaimed these words.*
4. Jereboam was angry and stretched out his arm toward the prophet to have him arrested; but the text tells us that his hand *dried up, so that he could not pull it in again to him (13:4).* (This was the first of 3 miracles.)
5. The second miracle then follows in **13:5** *The altar also was rent, and the ashes poured out from the altar, according to the sign which the man of God had given by the word of the LORD.*
6. The third miracle then follows as Jereboam petitions the man of God to pray for him: **13:6** *...And the man of God besought the LORD, and the king's hand was restored him again, and became as it was before.*
7. Three very definite miracles confirmed that the message of the man of God was from God which will prove of great significance in our lesson.

DISCUSSION:

I. THE INVITATION OF JEREBOAM (1 KINGS 13:7-10).

- A. *And the king said unto the man of God, Come home with me, and refresh thyself, and I will give thee a reward.*
13:8 *And the man of God said unto the king, If thou wilt give me half thine house, I will not go in with thee, neither will I eat bread nor drink water in this place:*
13:9 *For so was it charged me by the word of the LORD, saying, Eat no bread, nor drink water, nor turn again by the same way that thou camest.*

- 13:10** *So he went another way, and returned not by the way that he came to Bethel.*
- B. Regardless of the greatness of the reward, the man of God was not willing to go against the word of the Lord.
 - C. Notice also of great importance, that the man of God had been directly commanded by God not to eat or drink there, or return from Bethel the way he came.
 - D. It is refreshing when someone is willing to reject riches to follow the commandments of the Lord.
 - E. The Lord warned that there would be those who would be tempted to reject the commandments in favor of the world.
 - 1. In the parable of the sower, Jesus talked about the seed (word of God) being sown among thorns.
 - 2. In the explanation: **Luke 8:14** *And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection.*
 - F. Certainly a king could have offered a hefty reward; but no matter what was offered, the man of God was obligated to reject it.
 - G. The child of God today must not let money and material things stand in the way of his obedience to the commandments of God!

II. THE GREAT LIE (1 KINGS 13:15-19).

- A. **Vs 14** informs us that the young prophet had been setting under an oak tree.
- B. The old prophet then approached: *Then he said unto him, Come home with me, and eat bread.*

13:16 *And he said, I may not return with thee, nor go in with thee: neither will I eat bread nor drink water with thee in this place:*

13:17 *For it was said to me by the word of the LORD, Thou shalt eat no bread nor drink water there, nor turn again to go by the way that thou camest.*

13:18 *He said unto him, I am a prophet also as thou art; and an angel spake unto me by the word of the LORD, saying, Bring him back with thee into thine house, that he may eat bread and drink water. But he lied unto him.*

13:19 *So he went back with him, and did eat bread in his house, and drank water.*

 - 1. Notice again the end of **vs 18**: *But he lied unto him.*
 - 2. He made a grave error in accepting the unconfirmed word of a liar!
- C. Several things need to be considered from this:
 - 1. His mistake stemmed from a desire to do that which he was not permitted to do.
 - 2. One writer expressed it this way: "Believe true what you wish true."
 - 3. This is similar to the occasion of Balaam, in that he wanted to curse Israel for Moab; in that story his counsel caused Moab to tempt Israel to sin.
 - 4. We are not told why the young prophet felt the need to accept the invitation.
 - 5. It may be what many succumbed to: **1 John 2:16** *For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.*
- D. I mentioned earlier the importance of 3 miracles to confirm the word which he spoke that it was true, and that it was from God.
 - 1. Consider that he had 3 miracles from God to confirm his message, and yet chose to believe the word of the old prophet.

2. Often someone will read this account and believe that God was unduly harsh with the young prophet; after all he received the lie with the best of intentions.
 3. They reason that the young prophet should be held innocent.
 - 1) In sincerity he took the word of another prophet.
 - 2) It is the other prophet which should have been punished.
 4. True, the older prophet was at fault. At no time is a lie acceptable before God (**Rev. 21:8**).
 - 1) **Prov. 6:16-17** *These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him:*
6:17 *A proud look, a lying tongue...*
 - 2) Lying is #2 on the list.
 5. However, the young prophet was not without fault.
 - 1) He chose to ignore 3 miracles that confirmed his previous message in favor of the word of another man WITHOUT PROOF!
 - 2) Further, he was wrong in that he chose to believe something which was totally the opposite of what God had said.
 - 3) It stands to reason, that if God revealed something to him and changed His mind, (which in this case was not likely), that God would have revealed it to him, and not through the older prophet.
 6. It was the late N.B. Hardeman that wrote: "You doubtless say and reason now, just as I am disposed to do, that the old prophet was guilty of the greater sin. Let me ask you: Why didn't God kill the old man who told the lie, rather than the young prophet, who believed the lie? I think the answer lies here. There are other passages in the Bible that have to deal with the teller of the lie. There are plenty of other scriptures and examples that deal out the punishment and portray the destiny of those who misrepresent and who are guilty of lying. But the special reason for this story's being written is to impress upon you and me the danger of believing a lie, and I don't doubt but that in due time the old gentleman received his share of condemnation for having told the lie."
- E. What we have here is not much different than we see today.
1. God reveals the truth to us through His word (**John 17:17; 8:32**).
 2. And yet someone will tell someone something which contradicts what the Bible says, and they will choose to believe the false teacher.
 3. They may accept it in sincerity, but still, as with the young prophet, they are believing a lie!
 4. One of the great examples of our day is a religion which has as its basis, faith in a man.
 - 1) Mormonism has its basis in the belief that Joseph Smith received revelation from the angel Moroni.
 - 2) Yet the book of Mormon openly contradicts the Bible.
 - 3) Did not Paul write: **Gal. 1:8-10** *But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.*
1:9 *As we said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.*
1:10 *For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet*

pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.

- F. The young prophet should have questioned the old prophet on his statement; but there is something here which needs to be strongly emphasized; and that is, that YOU CAN BELIEVE A LIE!
1. **2 Thess. 2:9-12** *Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,*
2:10 *And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.*
2:11 *And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:*
2:12 *That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.*
 2. Again, Is not this the very thing which happens to good and honest people today (Illus. preachers teaching falsely on baptism and people believe it.)
 3. **Acts 17:11; 2 Tim. 2:15.**
 4. Salvation is based upon God's word (**Psa. 119:105; John 12:48**).
- J. The young prophet further faltered because he lowered his guard.
1. **1 Pet. 5:8** *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:*
 2. **Sober** - "Mental self-control."
 3. **Vigilant** - "watchful, to stay awake; to be spiritually alert."
 4. Today, any one of us stands in danger when we lower our guard.

III. THE TRUE PROPHECY (1 KINGS 13:20-23).

- A. *And it came to pass, as they sat at the table, that the word of the LORD came unto the prophet that brought him back:*
13:21 *And he cried unto the man of God that came from Judah, saying, Thus saith the LORD, Forasmuch as thou hast disobeyed the mouth of the LORD, and hast not kept the commandment which the LORD thy God commanded thee,*
13:22 *But camest back, and hast eaten bread and drunk water in the place, of the which the Lord did say to thee, Eat no bread, and drink no water; thy carcass shall not come unto the sepulchre of thy fathers.*
13:23 *And it came to pass, after he had eaten bread, and after he had drunk, that he saddled for him the ass, to wit, for the prophet whom he had brought back (1 Kings 13:20-23).*
- B. God used the old prophet to deliver the message to the man of God.
1. Now the lie is exposed; and the young man of God is reminded of his original message.
 2. **Rom. 3:4** *...let God be true, but every man a liar.*
- C. Of interest, the text does not speak of the young man of God blaming the old prophet.
1. It does not seem surprising since that is the trend in our society, and, of course, the pattern even of those of the past.
 2. The story of Adam and Eve is one of blame:
Gen. 3:12-13 *And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.*
3:13 *And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done?*

And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.

3. When King Saul (1st king) sinned, he blamed the people:
1 Sam. 15:20-21 *And Saul said unto Samuel, Yea, I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and have gone the way which the LORD sent me, and have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites.*
15:21 *But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the chief of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God in Gilgal.*
4. A Man troubled by alcoholism blames wife: *"She drove me to drink."*
5. Students cheat on test and blame the teacher: *"The test was too hard; I had to cheat to pass."*
6. Couples end up in divorce court: tell the judge it is the other mates fault. They are completely without fault in the matter.
7. A man gets behind on paying taxes and blames the IRS for being *"too cruel."*
8. A young boy lies to mother; gets caught and blames the boy across the street.
9. We cannot blame others for our disobedience.

IV. THE DEATH OF THE MAN OF GOD (1 KINGS 13:23-24).

- A. *And it came to pass, after he had eaten bread, and after he had drunk, that he saddled for him the ass, to wit, for the prophet whom he had brought back.*
13:24 *And when he was gone, a lion met him by the way, and slew him: and his carcase was cast in the way, and the ass stood by it, the lion also stood by the carcase.*
- B. Here is the ever present reminder that there are consequences of sin.
- C. Even today, each of us must face the consequences of our sins.
 1. For example: If a crime has been committed, even though we are forgiven, we still must bear the legal consequences.
 2. If we've lied and are caught with the truth, we must bear the consequences.
 3. The man of God faced divine retribution for his disobedience.
- D. In the judgment, we know that the disobedient will face divine retribution.
 1. **2 Thess. 1:7-9** *And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,*
1:8 *In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:*
1:9 *Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power.*
 2. **2 Cor. 5:10-11** *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.*
5:11 *Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men...*

V. THE BURIAL.

- A. *And when the prophet that brought him back from the way heard thereof, he said, It is the man of God, who was disobedient unto the word of the LORD: therefore the LORD hath delivered him unto the lion, which hath torn him, and slain him, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake unto him.*

13:27 *And he spake to his sons, saying, Saddle me the ass. And they saddled him.*

13:28 *And he went and found his carcass cast in the way, and the ass and the lion standing by the carcass: the lion had not eaten the carcass, nor torn the ass.*

13:29 *And the prophet took up the carcass of the man of God, and laid it upon the ass, and brought it back: and the old prophet came to the city, to mourn and to bury him.*

13:30 *And he laid his carcass in his own grave; and they mourned over him, saying, Alas, my brother!*

13:31 *And it came to pass, after he had buried him, that he spake to his sons, saying, When I am dead, then bury me in the sepulchre wherein the man of God is buried; lay my bones beside his bones:*

13:32 *For the saying which he cried by the word of the LORD against the altar in Bethel, and against all the houses of the high places which are in the cities of Samaria, shall surely come to pass.*

CONCLUSION:

1. This lesson has served as a reminder to each of us of our own individual responsibility in matters.
2. **Rom.14:12** *So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.*
3. In the day of judgment, we will not be able to point the blame at anyone but ourself.
4. No doubt if many were in the young prophet's place, by today's view upon things, they would point the finger at the old prophet, and say it was unfair.
5. It seems that the realization of personal responsibility is overlooked & ignored.
6. *"A history-making lawsuit involved a 24 yr old man from Boulder, Colorado, who sued his parents to the tune of \$350,000. He accused them of "psychological malparenting" which means, translated into simpler language, messing up his life. He was saying in effect that all that has gone wrong with his life, his failure to make a go of things, is not his fault. He had no part in his failure. He was the innocent, passive victim of the mistakes of others. There is a widespread tendency today to evade responsibility for our actions. We are pictured as victims of genes, reflexes, complexes, passions, glands. We are seen as mere puppets being manipulated by massive forces that buffet us about and which you and I are impotent to control. This whole philosophy of evasion was neatly summed up in a cartoon in which a little boy complains to his father: 'Mother is always blaming me for everything I do.'" (Source: Wendell Winkler)*
7. When one day we stand before God, and give our account, we won't anyone to blame.
8. In that day it will be crystal clear that our salvation, or more appropriately, a lack of it, will have solely been our own fault!
9. It was bro. Tillet Teddie who wrote in the words of the song:
"Some day you'll stand at the bar on high, some day your record you'll see; some day you'll answer the question of life, What will your answer be?"
10. "Lord, it wasn't my fault, it was the fault of my parents; it was the fault of my brother's and sisters; it was the fault of my spouse; it was the fault of my peers & my friends."
11. That excuse, or any other excuse cannot satisfy divine justice.
12. In the human courts of our land, we can argue and make excuses, and with a shrewd attorney, possibly get a reduced sentence or perhaps even an acquittal.
13. But before the bar of heaven, it is not that easy.

Eccl. 12:13-14 *Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his*

commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

12:14 *For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.*

14. And when you stand before Him, with no one to blame, know too, that if you have believed a lie, the responsibility is yours.
15. That may be very disconcerting, but that is why I hammer so hard in my lessons to be students of the word.
16. I want everyone here to enjoy a home in heaven; but the choice & responsibility is entirely yours.
17. "There's a sad day coming, when the sinner shall hear his doom, "Depart, I know ye not," Are you ready for that day to come?"
18. The song expresses it well; Is that the choice that you have made?

Rev. 22:17 *And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.*