

“The Burden of Truth”

1 Kings 22.1-28

Ch 19 – Prophet ELIJAH > LONELY DESPAIR

God’s Word of REASSURANCE > “7000 who do not follow Baal”

One of that Number 7000 – Prophet MICAIAH

LAST LECTURE OF CHURCH HISTORY PROF IN SEMINARY

3 years – Detailed Study of 2000 years of Church History

“Remove HAT of Professor / Put on HAT of Prophet”

DAYS AHEAD WILL BE DIFFICULT FOR THE CHURCH OF JESUS

WEPT & Said – “Wish I had another lifetime to preach the Gospel”

DARKER DAYS OF WORLD / BRIGHTER LIGHT OF GOSPEL

PASSAGE – dark day 2500 years ago – little know prophet Micaiah
CALLED TO HOLD UP LIGHT OF GOD’S TRUTH before KINGS

Ahab of Israel – Darkened throne of Israel for 22 years

16.30 did more evil in the eyes of the Lord than any of those before him”

Jehoshaphat of Judah – 22.43 “he did what was right in the eyes of the Lord. The high places were not removed, and the people continued to offer sacrifices there”

MORE RIGHTEOUS – STILL COMPROMISED CONVICTIONS

2 KINGS MADE BI-LATERAL PACT – Capture Ramoth-Gilead

Heavily fortified Aramean city near border / Israel & Syria

US HERE – Different place and time, COVENANT – same God

SAME CALLING TO SHINE HIS LIGHT – day or night – CONCERNS

1. The Burden of Truth

a. Loneliness – last week Elijah “I am the only one left”

TRUTH HAS NEVER BEEN A MAJORITY OPINION

18.4 Queen of Mean - “Jezebel was killing off the Lord’s prophets”

22.6 “The king of Israel brought together the prophets – 400 men”

NOT GOD’S PROPHETS – AHAB’S – Unfortunate Difference

Perhaps these were on Mt. Carmel – ch 18 – prophets of Ashera
 “ate at Jezebel’s table”

Or Perhaps personal prophets of Ahab – RELIGIOUS YES MEN

22.7 “Is there not a prophet of the Lord here?”

22.8 “there is still ONE MAN HERE” – only one left?!

FAITHFUL MAN IN A LONELY PRISON CELL wrote to Timothy
 “The time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to
 suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to
 say what their itching ears want to hear” 2 T 4.3

MICAIAH – Real Lonely in a PRISON CELL

22.27 King “put this fellow in prison and give him nothing but bread & water
 until I return safely”

BIBLE NEVER SAYS WHETHER HE GOT OUT – prison ministry?

b. Misunderstanding – Micaiah misunderstood by BOTH KINGS

Godless King Ahab – Used Prophets to as Personal Magicians
 To GAIN DIVINE FAVOR AND INFLUENCE PERSONAL OPINION

22.11 ONE WITH HORNY HELMET named Zedekiah

“the Lord says- with these you will gore the Arameans until they are destroyed.
 All the other prophets were prophesying the same thing”

BROKE 3rd Commandment – TAKING GOD’S NAME IN VAIN

Jehoshaphat was SLIGHTLY BETTER – more true discernment

22.4 Ahab asked Jehoshaphat “Will you fight with me?”

Answer “I am with you brother, saddle up the horses....”

22.5 AFTER THOUGHT “First seek the counsel of the Lord”

DANGER – MAKE OUR PLANS / ASK GOD TO BLESS

DANGER – MIXING POLITICS AND RELIGION – DISTORTION

RELIGIOUS MANDATE FOR MAN'S PLANS – SEEKING GOD'S

BECAME A PASTOR – advice of seasoned pastor

“You better define yourself – everyone else will define you instead”

MICAIAH walked into setting with filled w/ MISUNDERSTANDINGS

22.13 Messenger who invited Micaiah to speak to the Kings

“Look, as one man the other prophets are predicting success for the king. Let your word agree with theirs, and speak favorably”

NOT MUCH WIGGLE ROOM – BETTER WAVE PARTY BANNER

SAME MISUNDERSTANDING SURROUNDED JESUS

He asked his followers – “Who do people say the Son of Man is?”

“Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, still others Jeremiah, or one of the prophets”

“But what about you?” he asked “who do you say that I am?” Mt 16.13

FOREIGNER– FAMILY WONDERS WHY YOU STAY IN C/A NOW?

22.14 M. NEVER MISUNDERSTOOD CALL OF GOD ON HIS LIFE

“As surely as the Lord lives, I can tell him only what the Lord tells me”

c. Hated – The world is at war with the Prince of Peace

AHAB WOULD LOVE M. IF HE GAINED HIS ENDORSEMENT

22.8 “I hate him because he never prophesies anything good about me, but always bad”

22.24 Zedekiah – Lying, Horny Hatter – Slapped Micaiah in the face

WHEN PEOPLE HATE THE MESSAGE / MESSENGER TAKES HIT

MESSENGER'S MESSAGE LIKE SEARCHLIGHT – exposes Evil

“This is the verdict” said Jesus “Light has come into the world, but men loved the darkness instead of light because their deed were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear his deeds will be exposed”

John 3.19,20

BELIEVERS FOLLOW STEPS OF CRUCIFIED MASTER

“If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you” John 15.18,19

WORDS OF GREAT SADNESS AND PAIN

“a man’s enemies will be the members of his own household” Mt 10.36

ADONIRAM JUDSON – America’s first missionary – to new recruits

“I can assure you that months and months of heart-rending anguish are before you, whether you want them or not. Yet, take the bitter cup with both hands, and sit down to drink. You will soon learn a secret, there is sweetness at the bottom”

M. DRAMATIC EXAMPLE – being Lonely, Misunderstood, & Hated

GOD FORBID THAT YOU WILL HAVE SUCH A SEVERE EXPER.
BUT YOU WILL DRINK SAME CUP – FOLLOW SAME MASTER

VERY NATURAL TO THINK THIS BURDEN WOULD SILENCE M.

NOT NATURAL – EXAMPLE OF SUPER-NATURAL

2. Boldness for the Truth

a. He was Clear –NO DOUBT ABOUT MESSAGE /CLARION CALL

NO POLITICAL NEW SPEAK OF RELIGIOUS DOUBLE TALK

22.17 M. LOOKED AT CORRUPT SHEPHERD OF ISRAEL

“I saw all Israel scattered on the hills like a sheep without a shepherd, and the Lord said, These people have no master”

22.28 AS HE WAS BEING STRAIGHT-ARMED OUT TO PRISON

“If you ever return safely, the Lord has not spoken through me”

APOSTOLIC EXAMPLE OF PAUL

“We have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary we set forth the truth plainly, we commend ourselves to every man’s conscience in the sight of God” 2 Cor 4.2

DANGER – HIGHER VALUE ON SAFETY THAN ON TRUTH

Wise as serpents – BUT NOT TOLD TO TALK LIKE SERPENTS

“No such thing as a Secret Disciple – Either the secrecy will destroy the discipleship, or the discipleship will destroy the secrecy”

CAN WE SUBSTITUTE THE M. WORD FOR THE D. WORD?

b. He was Consistent HIS LIFE WAS HIS LOUDEST SERMON

DUTY TO SPEAK THE TRUTH AND WALK IN IT

AHAB HATED Prophet & MESSAGE – EXPECTED NOTHING LESS
22.8 “he NEVER prophesies anything good about me – ALWAYS bad”

22.18 AFTER M. WAS AGAIN CONSISTENT IN HIS MESSAGE
AHAB “Didn’t I tell you that he never prophesies anything good about me, but only bad?”

WHAT is your TRACK RECORD – WHAT do people EXPECT of You?

Micaiah’s first words to King – APPEAR TO BE INCONSISTENT
22.15 AHAB ASKS – “shall we go to war?” “Attack and be victorious, for the Lord will give it into king’s hand?”

VERSE WOULD BE MORE CLEAR IN THE MOVIE VERSION
HEAR – tone of Mockery and Sarcasm in Micaiah’s Voice
SEE – sneer of Scorn and Shame on Micaiah’s Face

KING IN REGAL POMP – surrounded by YES men – GO AHEAD!!

22.16 KING DOES NOT WANT FLATTERY – HE WANTS TRUTH

22.23 NOW AHAB WILL GET IT RIGHT BETWEEN THE EYES
“The Lord has decreed disaster for you”

BELIEVER MUST WALK THE TALK – BE CONSISTENT

“Watch your life and doctrine closely, persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers” 1 Tim 4.16

FAMOUS ENGLISH CRICKET PLAYER – C.T. Studd

Missionary to China, India, and Africa

“For 5 years we never went outside without a volley of curses from our neighbors...Had I cared for the comments of people, I would never have been a missionary”

c. He was Courageous

IT IS ONE THING TO SPEAK TRUTH IN CIRCLE OF FRIENDS
ANOTHER TO DECLARE IT IN THE ARENA OF ENEMIES

22.10 – 2 Kings “dressed in their royal robes...sitting on their thrones...with all the prophets prophesying before them”

JUST A FEW YEARS BEFORE

18.4 “Jezebel was killing off the Lord’s prophets, Obadiah had taken a hundred prophets and hidden them in two caves”

MORE RECENTLY

Ch. 21 – Ahab wanted Vineyard owned by Naboth

21.13 Jezebel had Naboth taken outside the city and stoned to death

Herodians to Jesus – “Teacher, we know you are a man of integrity and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren’t swayed by man, because you pay no attention to who they are” Mt 22.16

22.14 M. “As surely as the Lord lives”

NOT FIGURE OF SPEECH – LIKE CHANGING CONVICTION

SERVED LIVING GOD / NOT IDOLS LIKE BAAL OR ASHERAH

NOT IMPRESSED WITH EARTHLY KINGS ON FEEBLE THRONES
SIGHTS WERE FIXED ON HIGHER VISTAS

22.19 “I saw the Lord sitting on his throne with all the host of heaven standing around him on his right and on his left” FEARLESS IN GOD

WE ARE IN TRIBULATION – BUT WE KNOW HOW IT WILL END

“They will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings – and with him will be his called, chosen, and faithful”
Rev 17.14

3. Blessing of Truth

a. It is True HEAVEN & EARTH PASS AWAY /God's Word Endures

BUILDING w/ IMPERISHABLE TRUTHS – gold, silver, precious stone

EVEN UNBELIVERS AKNOWLEDGE TRUTH OF GOD

AHAB SAID HE HATED MICAIAH – Jehoshaphat rebuked Ahab

22.8 “the king should not say that”

22.16 AHAB SAYS “swear to tell me nothing but the truth”

FOUNDATION OF FALSE HOPES SHAKEN – people want Truth

PEOPLE CALLING ON LORD – EVEN THO DON'T KNOW HIM

TESTIMONY FROM WORLD TRADE CENTER – Christian Man
Worked in Upper Floors – Plane Hit Above – Ran down stairs to Exit
BUILDING BEGAN TO FALL – Shouted Call on Jesus to be SAVED
Hundreds began Screaming name of Jesus – FEAR AND FAITH

INTERESTING TEACHING ON TRUTH – ROMANS 1

v. 20 “clearly seen, being understood from what has been made”

v. 21 “they knew God”

v. 18 “suppress the truth by their wickedness”

v. 25 “exchanged the truth of God for a lie”

v. 22 “although they claimed to be wise, they became fools”

v. 24 “therefore God gave them over in the sinful desire of their hearts”

v. 18 “the wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth”

TRAGIC INDICTMENT ON THE HUMAN RACE – ALL SINNED

VIEW OF GOD'S TRUTH DETERMINES ETERNAL DESTINY

“They perish because they refused to love the truth & so be saved 2 Th 2.10

“all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness”
2 Thess 2.12

30 X's Gospel of Matthew – Jesus says “I tell you the truth”

Gospel of John – Even Deeper

1.14 “The Word became flesh....full of grace and truth”

7.18 “he who works for the honor of the one who sent him is a MAN OF TRUTH; there is nothing false about him”

14.6 “I am the way, the truth, and the life, no one comes to the Father, except through me”

PAUL WRITES EPHESIANS ABOUT “the truth that is in Jesus” 4.21

JOHN SAYS “I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are WALKING IN THE TRUTH” 3 John 4

b. It is from God Micaiah was messenger of God of Truth

AHAB SAT ON FEEBLE THRONE – surrounded by flattering prophets

TRUE GOD IS ENTHRONED IN THE HEAVENS
Surrounded by innumerable angels who eternally sing His Praise

THOSE WHO GAVE THEMSELVES TO EVIL

22.22 God allowed “a lying spirit in the mouths of all (Ahab’s) prophets”

THERE ARE OTHER GOSPELS AND FALSE CHRISTS IN WORLD

WHEN YOU SERVE TRUE GOD – leave your concerns in His hands

MICAIAH DID NOT RETALIATE WHEN ZEDEKIAH SLAPPED Him
v. 25 “You will find out on the day you go to hide in an inner room”

SYRIAN ARMY would RETURN THAT SLAP A THOUSAND FOLD
CANNOT ESCAPE PERFECT JUDGMENT OF GOD OF TRUTH

ELIJAH WAS NOT ALONE, NEITHER WAS MICAIAH, NOR YOU

c. It has Power to Save RAISE DEAD / SAVE SINNER’S SOUL

“God wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth”
1 Tim 2.4

GOD'S MERCY WAS REACHING OUT EVEN TO AHAB
 NO SINNER IS BEYOND GOD'S SAVING GRACE

GOD SENT ELIJAH AND MICAIAH TO CALL AHAB TO REPENT

HE REFUSED TO REPENT – BELIEVE TRUTH – BE SAVED
 22.38 “the dogs licked up his blood”

FULFILLED v. 17 “Shepherd dies / people scatter”

OT PROPHETS LOOKED FOR ANOTHER SHEPHERD

Ezekiel 34.23 “I will place over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he will tend them; he will tend them and be their shepherd. I the Lord will be their God, and my servant David will be prince among them.”

David's Son and David's Lord came as Savior and Shepherd

Jesus said “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me – just as the Father knows me and I know the Father – and I lay down my life for the sheep”

Peter told Cornelius “All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name” Acts 10.43

GOD OF TRUTH / WORD MADE FLESH / REDEEMS AND SAVES

FIND HIM AS SAVIOR BEFORE YOU FACE HIM AS JUDGE

DARK DAYS OF SIN AND DENIAL – trouble in World and Church

CALLED to CARRY BURDEN OF TRUTH – KNOW ITS BLESSING

TRUTH THAT SAVED US / TRUTH WE NOW SERVE – JESUS

IN ALL PRESURES TO CONFORM AND DENY – say like Micaiah

“As surely as the Lord lives, I can tell ...only what the Lord tells me”