

Ahab said, "I hate him"

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

"But Jehoshaphat said, Is there not here a prophet of the LORD besides, that we might enquire of him? And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, There is yet one man, by whom we may enquire of the LORD: but I hate him; for he never prophesied good unto me, but always evil: the same is Micaiah the son of Imla. And Jehoshaphat said, Let not the king say so." 2 Chronicles 18: 6-7

Ahab was one of the first men that we know of who hated one of God's prophets. The reason he hated Micaiah was because his message to Ahab was of the Lord's displeasure with him. King Ahab was a wicked man who had no love for God and cared nothing about doing that which pleased the Lord, he only cared about what he wanted to do. Like many others throughout history he wanted to live his way, doing what he wanted and still to be told that he was right with God and man.

He might have thought that Micaiah could do like Jezebel's false prophets and tell him what he wanted to hear. If Micaiah was a false prophet like the others he would have told Ahab what he wanted to hear and thought nothing of it. Micaiah was a prophet, called of God, and served to please God,

he could only say what he was given of the Lord. The prophets of Jezebel were called and hired by her and would say and do whatever it took to keep her happy. Since Micaiah was not like them but told some painful truth to Ahab he was hated.

King Ahab was like King Herod who had John the Baptist killed for the same reason. Herodias had been the wife of Phillip but had married Herod. When Herod married his brother's wife John told him that it was against God's law. Herodias had hated John from that time and plotted to have him killed. John had told the truth and was hated and killed because of it. These and others wanted to live in sin, but hated to be told that they were sinners. It seems that people don't want their sins to be noticed and pointed out.

Ignoring sin will not make it go away. It is painful to have to face sin and its consequences, but it must be done if there is to be cleansing and forgiveness. Ahab and Herod thought that God's prophets were the problem and that they gave them no good news because of a personal dislike. They didn't realize that the prophets had done them a favor by telling them that they needed to change their lives. It takes love for the Lord and your fellow man to tell them the truth. Someone who don't care for a person would let them continue in the path of sin that would lead them to death and destruction.

When God's message is heard we can see what the Lord says and can compare it to how we live. If we are not doing God's will we then have the opportunity to change and repent. At least the person then knows what he should do, but it is up to each person to decide what he will do with the knowledge of God's word. There are only two choices in this situation, the person can take heed to the message and ask God to forgive him, or he can do as Ahab and hate the messenger and refuse to change.

It was not just Micaiah that Ahab hated and considered his enemy, but also Elijah. There was no rain for three years and six months because of the sins of Ahab and Israel. When Elijah came to Ahab he was accused of being the one who troubled Israel. This wicked king could not imagine that his lifestyle had anything to do with it. He was one of those who saw anyone but himself as being at fault.

When he saw that God was the true God and that Baal was just an idol he still didn't change his ways. He continued hating the ways of righteousness and would have a man killed for his vineyard. It is not that some people can't change, the point is that some will not change. They are determined to go their own way regardless of the consequences.

Don't get angry, or hate, someone who told you the truth, be glad that they cared enough to do so.

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This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the Book of Genesis intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times

ABRAM IN EGYPT

...SARAI IS LITTLE MORE THAN A PRISONER IN HER LUXURIOUS QUARTERS, WAITING ON PHARAOH'S PLEASURE....

...AND PHARAOH IS HIGHLY PLEASED! SOON HE WILL SEE FOR HIMSELF IF THIS BEAUTY FROM THE EAST IS WORTHY TO BECOME A QUEEN IN EGYPT....

...SURROUNDED BY THE MANY GIFTS SENT BY PHARAOH, ABRAM CAN FIND BUT LITTLE CONSOLATION IN THEM AS HE SPENDS A SORROWFUL AND LONELY NIGHT IN HIS TENT....

...WHILE SARAI, IN GUARDED PRIVACY, HUGGLES MISERABLY ON HER SILKEN BED!

SUDDENLY, THE DARKNESS OF THE NIGHT IS PIERCED BY A TERRIFIED SCREAM! IT IS PHARAOH, CALLING IN HORROR FOR HIS SERVANTS, WHO SCURRY AS FAST AS THEY CAN TO ANSWER THEIR RULER'S URGENT CRIES FOR HELP!

JOHN LEHTI

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