

Be Careful Who You Listen To

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

1 Kings 13:1-32 tells the story of a prophet who was commanded of God to deliver a message and to return without eating, or drinking, and to return by another way. He told this to both the king and to another prophet, showing that he knew and understood what God had ordered him to do. Still, he must have wanted to eat and drink, for when he was told that it would be alright for him to do it, he gave in and disobeyed the commandment.

I guess what amazes me about this prophet is the fact that he talked with God and God talked with him. There was no way that he could be confused on what he was supposed to do. He even quoted his orders to both the king and to the other prophet. Even so, he went ahead and disobeyed God. Was he so hungry and thirsty that he had to do it? No, God knew what he needed and that he was able to complete his mission and to return as he was supposed to do. He wanted to stay and eat, not because he had to but because he wanted to do it.

When the second prophet found him, he was sitting under a tree. He should have been on his way out of the country instead of loafing in the shade. His wants and comforts were too important to him. When the other man said that he was a prophet and that God had changed his mind, he accepted it without question. Bad choice on his part. He heard what he wanted to hear and went against God's command. He paid for his disobedience with his life.

This is an example of what happens when a person goes against what God has said. Today it is apparent that man has not fully learned the folly of changing God's word. People listen to those who tell them what they like to hear: **2 Timothy 4:2-4**, "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables."

You don't have to look far today to see those who change the truth of God into a lie and preach a false message. They have a ready audience and are popular with many people because they make people feel good

without telling them about sin. Some like the thought of going to heaven without having to change their lifestyle. The problem with this is the fact that God has not, and will not, approve the false doctrine. Jesus said, "Ye must be born again."

We live in a "Feel Good" society where no one is wrong but the one who speaks out against sin. Even our government is trying to force us to accept homosexuality as a normal lifestyle. Some so called "Preachers" also say that it is acceptable and that love is love with whomever you want to love. The truth is that it is and will always be a perversion and a sin no matter who approves it or goes along with it. It may not be long when a preacher will get in trouble for saying that it is sin. I think that in some places it is called "Hate Speech," but it is truth.

A false preacher will tell you what you want to hear. He will do it be popular and for the money. Still it is false and will not stand in the light of God's word and judgment. A person who loves God and cares for the people will tell you the truth. The truth may not be popular, and in some cases it cause people to get angry. You have to choose who, and what, you will listen to and follow. The false way leads to death and hell, while the truth leads to life in heaven. It is up to you - choose wisely.

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ANCIENT POLITICAL RIVALS IN THE BIBLE!
THE POLITICAL POLICIES WERE THE GUIDING LIGHT IN THE LIVES OF THE LEADERS OF THE GOVERNING PARTY BOTH IN ISRAEL AND JUDAH—RELIGION WAS ONLY FOR THE PRIESTS AND PROPHETS! HOWEVER, IF A STRONG PROPHET, SUCH AS JEREMIAH, STIRRED UP THE PEOPLE, THEN THE GOVERNING LEADERS TOOK NOTICE—IN JEREMIAH'S CASE THEY PUT HIM IN JAIL! (JER. 37: 15, 16). WHEN JEREMIAH'S PROPHECIES CAME TRUE AND THE POLITICAL LEADERS, THAT PUT THEIR HOPES IN EGYPT OVER THE BABYLONIANS, HAD TO FLEE THE COUNTRY, JEREMIAH WAS RELEASED FROM PRISON BY THE BABYLONIAN CONQUERORS AND TREATED KINDLY BY THEM, OF COURSE! JEREMIAH ELECTED TO STAY AT MIZPAH UNDER THE PROTECTION OF GEDALIAH, A PRINCE OF JUDAH, WHO WAS PLACED IN CHARGE BY KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR OF BABYLON. GEDALIAH, WHO WANTED TO WELCOME ALL JEWS BACK TO THE COUNTRY, DIDN'T BELIEVE THOSE WHO WARNED HIM THAT CERTAIN LEADERS, ISHMAEL IN PARTICULAR, WOULD SEEK TO SLAY HIM, IF THEY GOT A CHANCE! (JER. 40:15,16) SO, GEDALIAH, A GENEROUS MAN, WELCOMED BACK ISHMAEL, OF THE SEED ROYAL, WHO BROKE BREAD WITH HIM, A HOLY SIGN OF PEACE, AND FOR THIS CONFIDENCE WAS MOST TREACHEROUSLY MURDERED!! (JER. 41:1,2).



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