

Be Careful Who You Listen To

by 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.

It is hard to turn away from something when it is something that we want to do. In the same way, it is hard to reject something that we are told when it is what we wanted to hear. Often when a person may ask a question, he knows what he would like the answer to be. If our interest is to do the Lord's will then we should do what he has told us and not be led astray by that which we want.

The prophet knew what God had told him and he understood it perfectly. He even repeated it at least twice. He may have been tired and hungry, so while

he knew what he should do, he wanted something else. Consider him for a moment. He was a prophet of God, called to prophesy at God's command. A miracle was done when he prophesied before the king, so we know that up to this point the was in the will of God.

He stopped when he should have been on his way home. His mission had been completed and as he was not to eat, or drink, in that place he would have been better off to have continued on his way home. When we stop in the service of the Lord we place ourselves in danger. The servants of the Lord are to go forward in faith and obedience to the Lord's commands. If and when we stop we expose ourselves to attack.

To test him another prophet lied to him and said that God had told him to bring him back to eat. Instead of asking God he jumped at the chance and went back with him to eat. It was foolish to think that God would tell someone else to tell him that it was alright to change the commands. Did he know that the other man was indeed a prophet? Anyone could have said that he was a prophet, but he didn't know for sure. To late he found out that he had acted foolishly in listening to a man instead of to God.

Many today make the same mistake that the disobedient prophet made. They have the bible and can see plainly what God has said. Yet, some man, or group of men, will say, "You don't have to do that although the bible says you do." Then many follow the man instead of God. This is done on everything from baptism, the Lord's supper, church attendance, living for the Lord, Judging, forgiveness, and many other doctrines of scripture.

How do you think that will work out for those who listen to man rather than to God? It may be what they want to hear and make them to feel good about themselves, but if it is not what God has said it will always be wrong. A man might do as he wants, but rest assured that God will do as he has said. No man, or group of men, will change God's will.

The bible tells us that the things that happened to them of old time happened to them for an example to us. We shouldn't make the same mistakes that they made. Yet, we do, time and time again. If we disobey the word of God as they did, we shouldn't be surprised when we get the same results. Be careful who we listen too, and be sure that what we hear and follow is backed up by God's Word.

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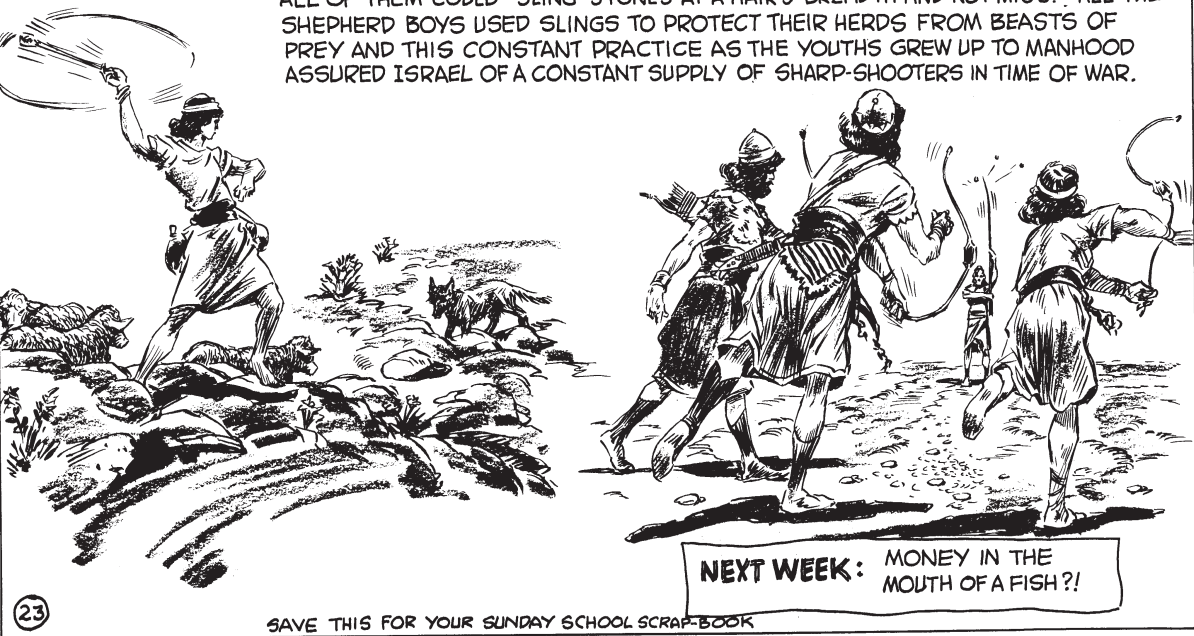
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700 LEFTIES!

ALTHOUGH MODERN BASEBALL HAS PRODUCED SOME AMAZING LEFT HANDED PITCHERS WHO THREW WITH EXTREME ACCURACY, SUCH AS LEFTY GROVE, WHITEY FORD, CARL HUBBEL, JOHNNY VANDER MEER, SANDY KOUFAX, IT CAN'T MATCH THE BIBLE'S SEVEN HUNDRED "LEFTY" SLING SHOOTERS!



THE SLING SHOOTER WAS THE COUNTERPART OF A MODERN ARMY'S RIFLE MAN AND THE TRIBE OF BENJAMIN HAD "SEVEN HUNDRED CHOSEN MEN LEFT HANDED" (JUDGES 20:16) ALL OF THEM COULD "SLING STONES AT A HAIR'S BREADTH AND NOT MISS." ALL THE SHEPHERD BOYS USED SLINGS TO PROTECT THEIR HERDS FROM BEASTS OF PREY AND THIS CONSTANT PRACTICE AS THE YOUTHS GREW UP TO MANHOOD ASSURED ISRAEL OF A CONSTANT SUPPLY OF SHARP-SHOOTERS IN TIME OF WAR.



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