

## **God's Word – and Inviolability - b (#14)**

**Text : Psalms 47 : 1-9**

### **INTRODUCTION :**

#### **A. In our last lesson we began examining I Kings 13.**

1. This chapter is viewed as difficult by many, but it's not really that hard.
2. Sometimes over analyzing a passage can obscure its message in a maze of facts.
  - a. The true beauty of a painting cannot be seen while examining brush strokes.
  - b. Just as paintings must be seen as a whole to appreciate their beauty, scriptural accounts of events must be seen as a whole to perceive their message.
  - c. Every individual act in a story does not necessarily have individual significance to the message God is communicating by that story.
3. Two examples of over analysis obscuring God's message come to mind :
  - a. The message of the parables is often lost by attributing significance to details.
  - b. God's message in John's Revelation is lost to those "*pick scales of the dragon.*"

#### **B. Our story deals with the importance of obedience to God.**

1. Solomon had been lead away from God by his many wives.
2. Jeroboam had allowed his political ambitions to supplant loyalty to God.
3. The old prophet put personal desire and cultural values above God's will.
4. The young prophet allowed himself to be influenced by another to disobey.

#### **C. All of the people in the story started off right, but ended up at odds with God.**

1. Solomon started his reign with the blessing of God.
  - a. He inherited God's promises to David as well as the throne of David.
  - b. He was granted both great wisdom and great wealth.
2. Jeroboam was given a kingdom to which he had no right.
  - a. He was not of the royal bloodline.
  - b. He did not fight to conquer the kingdom; it was just handed to him.
3. The old prophet had stayed a prophet of God even after the state religion changed.
  - a. He did not go to the king's sacrifice to the idol.
  - b. He introduced himself as a prophet of God.
4. The young prophet was chosen by God above all other prophets.
  - a. He delivered his message in a very powerful way. (*He was brave.*)
  - b. God worked a miracle through him.

**D. Thus, we realize that starting with God does not guarantee one will finish with Him. ( cf - I Cor. 10: 12 )**

1. Except for a small portion, Solomon's kingdom was given to another.
2. As the prophet forewarned Jeroboam, God removed the kingdom from him.
3. The old prophet lived with guilt and was buried in shame.
4. The young prophet's disobedience caused him to lose his life.

**This story is not in the bible to entertain us, but to teach us about God.**

**Rom. 15:4 - For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, ...**

**The Apostle Paul told young Timothy that studying the scriptures ( O.T.) would make him wise unto salvation. II Tim. 2: 15 ( Us as well )**

**Therefore, let us seek the wisdom we can learn from this story.**

**I. We learn that worldly wisdom will not draw one closer to God.**

**A. The actions of all of these men could be justified on the basis of human reason.**

1. Solomon
  - a. Each wife created a secure relationship with a country or a leader in Israel.
  - b. The temples to foreign gods made his foreign wives more contented. ( **Deut 17: 14-17** )
2. Jeroboam
  - a. Preventing the people from going to the rival domain would prevent defections.
  - b. When his people returned, spies and troublemakers would come with them.
3. The old prophet
  - a. The faithful prophets were gone so he had to get fellowship when it was available.
  - b. Hospitality was one of the highest values among the people.
4. The young prophet
  - a. Being young, he should respect the older prophets.
  - b. He was hungry and tired. It was not unreasonable to think God was providing.

**B. Lesson : It is not within man's prerogative to alter any of God's instructions.**

1. **Prov. 14: 12-** There is a way which seems right to a man,  
But its end is the way of death.
2. **Jer. 10:23-** I know, O Lord, that a man's way is not in himself,  
Nor is it in a man who walks to direct his steps. ( *Man must obey God.* )

3. Man's wisdom can never match God's wisdom.
  - a. **Prov. 12:15**- The way of a fool is right in his own eyes,  
But a wise man is he who listens to counsel.
  - b. **I Cor. 1:25**- Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men,  
and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

**C. Christians are instructed that we may not go beyond God's revealed word.**

1. **I Cor. 4: 6**- Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively applied to myself and Apollos for your sakes, so that in us you may learn not to exceed what is written, ...
2. It is only by humbling ourselves before the almighty God that man can find favor.  
**James 4:10**- Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.

**II. We learn that Man cannot change God's church to his own liking or convenience.**

**A. As the sovereign ruler of the universe, God doesn't need to be "politically correct."**

1. Jeroboam made the church more pleasurable and more convenient for the people.
2. He conformed his God to the people, i.e, he made God more acceptable to them.
3. That is exactly opposite to what must occur. **God is sovereign, man must conform.**

**B. Men have Jeroboam's attitude today because we don't understand sovereignty.**

1. Even modern despots do not have complete sovereignty.
2. Americans have never lived under sovereign rule or even a king.
3. Therefore, we have no concept of absolute authority.
4. To Americans authority has become merely academic.
  - a. People do not feel obligated to obey laws they don't agree with.
  - b. People don't respect leaders, police, teachers, etc.
  - c. Parents can't teach what they do not know. ( cf – **Eph 5:23** .. *culture rejects* )

**C. This attitude has spilled over into the church. ( People don't comprehend sovereignty.)**

1. "Church" in America has become about whatever appeals to the most people.
  - a. Today, many church services are more entertainment than anything else.  
( **It is not wrong for the services to be enjoyable; in fact, they should be.** )
  - b. However, today the church with the best "show" often has the biggest attendance.
  - c. As a result, many churches have more spectators than worshippers.
2. Worship is offered to God to please and to glorify HIM, not to please ourselves.

3. Sadly, many Christians have left the faith in search of pleasurable churches.
  - a. Those who knowingly worship in unscriptural ways will be rejected by God.
  - b. Those who knowingly accept unscriptural doctrines will be rejected by God.

**D. Those who forbid wholesome activities are equally unacceptable to God.**

1. God left the definition of Christian worship vague, man cannot legislate where God did not.

**\* ILL -** *An immature congregation almost split over the schedule of services.*

- a. There is no chapter in the N.T. which gives a set of guidelines for an assembly.
- b. There is no complete account of an assembly of a N.T. church.
- c. Therefore, one must conclude that God left the details of our assembly to us.
2. We are told how to do some of the things we do in the assembly.
  - a. We partake of the “*Lord’s Supper*” remembering the sacrifice of Jesus. **I Cor. 11**
  - b. The melody for our songs must be made in our hearts. **Ehp 5 (not mechanically)**
  - c. Our contribution must be a pre-planned act of love for God. **I Cor. 16, II Cor. 9**
3. Christians must not confuse their Christian life with their Christian assembly.
  - a. The church is the family of God.
  - b. Christianity is a way of Life.
  - c. The Christian life entails MANY things which are not done in the assembly.

**\* Remember :** *The primary function of the church is to do the will of God, NOT just to worship. The mission of the church on earth is to save souls.*

**III. We learn that one cannot put his personal desires above God’s desires.**

**A. The old prophet was willing to lie in God’s name in order to get what he wanted.**

1. The fellowship he wanted was not evil within itself.
  - a. He was a fellow prophet of God in a land where God had been rejected.
  - b. The young prophet was a local celebrity. (***He confronted the king and lived.***)
2. What he wanted was viewed as a good thing by the average man on the street.
  - a. Hospitality was one of the highest cultural values of his time.
  - b. The young prophet was in need of rest and refreshment.
3. The old prophet placed his own desires above the will of God.
  - a. He may not have believed that the young prophet was a true prophet.
  - b. Regardless, his actions demonstrated a lack of faith in God. (***Not submitted***)

**B. Today, churches are being destroyed by people binding their opinions.**

1. Many have the attitude of Naaman; **“Behold I thought ...” II King 5:8-14 ( 11 )**
2. Some bind traditions of the past on the church of today. ( *They resist any change.* )
  - a. Most of what we do in the daily activities of the church are not legislated.
  - b. As society/culture changes, expedient practices must keep relevant to the times.

\* *We have made many adjustments :*

  - *Men and women no longer set on opposite sides of the building.*
  - *Most men don't kneel to pray in the assembly.*
  - *We have bible classes and morning and evening services each Sunday.*

\* *This is not to imply that things which are commanded can be altered, truth stands.*
3. Some distort, pervert, twist the scriptures attempting to prove God wants what they want.
  - a. **II Pet. 3: 15b-16** ... our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you 16 as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.
  - b. It is never right to misuse a scripture EVEN to prove a good thing.

**IV. We learn that one is personally responsible to learn and obey the truth.****A. Though the young prophet sincerely believed the old prophet was speaking a true message from God, he was punished for his disobedience.**

1. The young prophet had received instructions from God.
2. He obeyed the most difficult part of God's instructions. ( *Partial obedience fails.* )
3. His heart was deceived. He was **not** rebellious. Even so he was punished.

\* *From this story we learn about the character of God. He demands respect and obedience.*

**B. Satan has been a deceiver from the beginning.**

1. He deceived Eve in the garden. **Gen. 3**
2. Jesus referred to Satan as the father of all liars. **John 8:44b**

**C. We live in a time when Satan's deceivers are everywhere and very active.**

1. Jesus warned this would happen after His departure.  
**Matt. 24: 24-** **For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect.**

2. The Apostle John warned Christians that Jesus prophecy was already being fulfilled.

**I John 4: 1-** Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

3. There are false prophets everywhere one turns. ( *Radio, TV, online, Denominations* )

#### **D. God will help you find what you seek.**

1. If you want to believe error, God will help you.

**II Thes. 2:9-12** ... the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, <sup>10</sup> and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. <sup>12</sup> For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false, <sup>12</sup> in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.

- a. One who loves the truth will find it and be set free by it.
  - b. Those who do not love the truth will be given what they do love.
2. Jesus promised ... “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.” **Matt. 7: 7-8**
  3. The key is found in :

**I Thes. 5: 21-** But examine everything *carefully*; hold fast to that which is good;

### **CONCLUSION :**

- A. Every account in the bible teach us something of eternal value.

**Rom. 15:4-** For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction,

- B. From this one story we have learned four important lessons :

1. Worldly wisdom will not draw one closer to God.
2. Man cannot change God's church to his own convenience or liking.
3. One cannot put his personal desires above God's desires.
4. One is personally responsible to learn and obey the truth. ( *Deceived but perished* )

- C. Man's relationship with God is dependent upon his obedience to God.

1. **Exodus 19: 5-** Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine;
2. **Heb. 5:9-** And having been made perfect, He ( *Jesus* ) became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation, **Have you obeyed Him ?**

Lesson Text :

**Psa. 47 : 1-9**

- 1 O clap your hands, all peoples;  
Shout to God with the voice of joy.
- 2 For the LORD Most High is to be feared,  
A great King over all the earth.
- 3 He subdues peoples under us  
And nations under our feet.
- 4 He chooses our inheritance for us,  
The glory of Jacob whom He loves.
  
- 5 God has ascended with a shout,  
The LORD, with the sound of a trumpet.
- 6 Sing praises to God, sing praises;  
Sing praises to our King, sing praises.
- 7 For God is the King of all the earth;  
Sing praises with a skillful psalm.
- 8 God reigns over the nations,  
God sits on His holy throne.
- 9 The princes of the people have assembled themselves  
as the people of the God of Abraham,  
For the shields of the earth belong to God;  
He is highly exalted.