

## Lessons from the Man of God from Judah

1 Kings 13:11-26 Now there dwelt an old prophet in Bethel; and his sons came and told him all the works that the man of God had done that day in Bethel: the words which he had spoken unto the king, them they told also to their father. 12 And their father said unto them, What way went he? For his sons had seen what way the man of God went, which came from Judah. 13 And he said unto his sons, Saddle me the ass. So they saddled him the ass: and he rode thereon, 14 And went after the man of God, and found him sitting under an oak: and he said unto him, Art thou the man of God that camest from Judah? And he said, I am. 15 Then he said unto him, Come home with me, and eat bread. 16 And he said, I may not return with thee, nor go in with thee: neither will I eat bread nor drink water with thee in this place: 17 **For it was said to me by the word of the LORD, Thou shalt eat no bread nor drink water there, nor turn again to go by the way that thou camest.** 18 He said unto him, I am a prophet also as thou art; and an angel spake unto me by the word of the LORD, saying, Bring him back with thee into thine house, that he may eat bread and drink water. **But he lied unto him.** 19 So he went back with him, and did eat bread in his house, and drank water. 20 And it came to pass, as they sat at the table, that the word of the LORD came unto the prophet that brought him back: 21 And he cried unto the man of God that came from Judah, saying, Thus saith the LORD, Forasmuch as thou hast disobeyed the mouth of the LORD, and hast not kept the commandment which the LORD thy God commanded thee, 22 But camest back, and hast eaten bread and drunk water in the place, of the which the LORD did say to thee, Eat no bread, and drink no water; thy carcase shall not come unto the sepulchre of thy fathers. 23 And it came to pass, after he had eaten bread, and after he had drunk, that he saddled for him the ass, to wit, for the prophet whom he had brought back. 24 And when he was gone, a lion met him by the way, and slew him: and his carcase was cast in the way, and the ass stood by it, the lion also stood by the carcase. 25 And, behold, men passed by, and saw the carcase cast in the way, and the lion standing by the carcase: and they came and told it in the city where the old prophet dwelt. 26 And when the prophet that brought him back from the way heard thereof, he said, It is the man of God, who was disobedient unto the word of the LORD: therefore the LORD hath delivered him unto the lion, which hath torn him, and slain him, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake unto him.

This passage reveals many lessons that we can glean from, but the main one being: **Do not backtrack from the instruction or direction of the Lord.**

This passage has three key subjects:

- a) God,
- b) The Man of God from Judah
- c) and the Old lying prophet.

1) Lesson 1: Value what God has spoken to you more than what anyone else speaks to you.

- a) What God speaks to you ought to hold more weight than what others claim He has spoken to them. The best method to use is the method of confirmation. Is that person confirming what God has already spoken to you, and does it bear witness with your spirit?
- b) A lot of people are misled by a word from someone very significant in their lives that clouds the Word God has spoken to them.

This could be because they feel:

- i) They owe obedience to that person.
- ii) They want to please that person.
- iii) They are younger and have less experience.
- iv) Status of the person speaking the Word to them.
- v) They do not have enough confidence in their ability to hear God.
- vi) They do not know the Lord and His Word.

2) Lesson 2: God cannot contradict Himself.

- a) God would not have spoken two opposing words to these two. Someone was wrong, and it was the lying old prophet. This was a clear sign that this was not from the Lord. It was a huge contradiction. **God cannot contradict Himself.**

3) Lesson 3: You already have a word from the Lord, or get one.

The man of God from Judah had heard the Lord very well. He could have rejected anything contrary to that Word, and all could have been fine.

- a) The old prophet was lying, claiming that the angel of the Lord spoke to Him by the Word of the Lord. This should not have been an issue because the man of God from Judah had a Word and instructions from the Lord— **"For it was said to me by the**

word of the LORD, Thou shalt eat no bread nor drink water there, nor turn again to go by the way that thou camest.” He was not to do anything contrary to that instruction (Not to eat food nor drink water, nor go backward returning where he had come from).

- 4) Lesson 4: Do not back track on God’s Word. Stick to it no matter what.
  - a) The man of God from Judah not only had the Word of God, he knew it, and he rehearsed it before the old prophet, but guess what happened?
  - b) He backtracked on the Word from the Lord. We need to stick to what we know and believe the Lord has told us and not backtrack or flip lest we miss Him and make grave mistakes.
- 5) Lesson 5: Satan will come to hinder the Word God has spoken to you.
  - a) Satan will come to hinder or steal the Word God has spoken to you.
    - i) Mark 4:15 *And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts.*
  - b) You need to be **fully persuaded** that you have heard from the Lord to the point that no one can talk you out of it.
    - i) The Word, guidance, or direction from the Lord to this man of God from Judah was stolen (taken away—Mark 4:15) or hijacked by an old lying prophet.
- 6) Lesson 6: Disobeying the Lord could cost us more than we think.
  - a) This is in no way a threat. We see this in this passage. The man of God from Judah died from a place of disobeying the Lord. We do not know what could really happen when we disobey the Lord, but it will not be good.
  - b) If we disobey the Lord, whether intentionally or not, we will get burned, not by the Lord but by the law of sowing and reaping (Galatians 6:8). Yielding to the enemy and not to the Lord will produce hurt and death. **We must be intentional in our effort to stick to the direction we have received from the Lord.**

7) Lesson 7: Lying Prophets or spiritual leaders.

- a) This is not an attack on any minister specifically, but the point is that some ministers are lying prophets. We need to be aware of that. Just because someone has a degree behind their name does not mean that they cannot lie. Standing up and speaking before you does not necessarily mean that whatever he is speaking is the truth.
- b) If you have a Word from the Lord that is in line with His Word, elevate it above all.

8) Lesson 8: Deceived

- a) Ministers can be deceived, no matter how spiritual they are. This explains why we need to be in tune with the Lord all the time. The man of God from Judah was deceived.

Men of God are not invincible.

- i) I know a man of God who is well respected, yet he has been deceived on multiple occasions and stolen from. This does not diminish him from being a man of God, but simply means that he is a man as well, and he knows in part, just like the rest of us.
- b) While we stand, we need to be careful lest we fall.
  - i) 1 Corinthians 10:12 Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

9) Lesson 9: Direction hijackers

- a) Direction hijackers do exist even in the spiritual things. When we have instruction from the Lord, we should not be astounded when we encounter these lying old prophets.
- b) Every time the Lord speaks to us and gives us guidance or direction, the enemy will parade seemingly good people, options, and additions that will try to derail us from the initial direction or guidance from the Lord. The enemy will hijack that decision or direction by suggesting other options that may not seem or look to be bad. We need to stick to what the Lord has told us.

- i) Matthew 16:21-23—**Jesus Vs Peter—the contrast.** This is a classic example of someone having God speak to them, and another tries to get him off track.
- ii) Matthew 16:21-23 21 From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day. 22 Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee. 23 But he turned, and said unto Peter, **Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.**
  - o Jesus knew very well what God called and sent Him to accomplish. Peter, out of his zeal and other unknown reasons, was trying to convince Jesus otherwise. He was convincing Jesus to depart from what God had called him to do.
  - o In this case, Peter, being used by Satan, was like unto the old prophet, and Jesus was like unto the man of God from Judah, with the difference being that Jesus obeyed the Lord, unlike the man of God from Judah.
  - o Thank God for God, Jesus did not heed to that unwise, dumb counsel from Peter and turned around and rebuked him (verse 23). If He did, He would not have gone to the cross to die for our sins.

There was a time I set out to find a place for rent. I needed a three-bedroom house or apartment, but I could not find any, even after some time, however I was considering getting it so that I do not have to move twice or look later. I spoke to four close people in my life, and I got the same direction to simply get a one-bedroom for me and then wait until later to get another bigger apartment that meets my needs at that time. **My current needs did not require a three-bedroom.**

Before all this, I had multiple people looking for a place for me, but I decided to stop and follow the confirmation in my heart and the counsel I had received about not pursuing a three-bedroom. As I was determined to pull the plug on the 3-bedroom house and only look for a one-bedroom, I called the guy who was helping with this, who told me that he had found the very place I had been looking for as soon as I told him I was not moving forward. It was the perfect 3 bedrooms. Guess what I did? Having heard from the Lord through the four close people in my life, I backtracked and changed my decision from not looking again to going to

see the 3-bedroom house and later organizing to get it paid. I made the same mistake the prophet from Judah made—thank God I was not eaten by the lion, but I was burned. I lost my money to a conman--\$1411 was lost, to be exact. That was a sad day.

I believe that God is a God of restoration, and I know it was the enemy that stole from me, and I started to believe God for a restoration with interest, which all happened within 3 business days. This was miraculous. There is not a better or other way to explain this. In hindsight, I see a lot of things were wrong, yet not only that, I missed the leading of the Lord out of this enemy's snare. The Lord showed me multiple signs that I missed.

- a) The night before, I spoke to the Lord to show me if this was a con. I did the same in the morning. I was looking for a red flag in this, and I could not get one. I was listening for peace in this decision—all during prayer. My answer came after prayer, and I missed it.

Why did I miss it? **One of the reasons was that I was expecting God to speak to me during prayer, which turned out not to be during prayer, but outside and after prayer.**

- i) Not every time we seek the Lord about a direction it comes during the time of prayer. We need to be aware of this, so we do not miss Him. **He can speak to us during or after prayer.** We need to continue listening to Him even after prayer. We should not turn carnal after prayer.
  - ii) Early that morning, a friend at the time called me and told me that I should ask for a national ID from the supposed owner I was meeting that day. That was the answer to my prayer, but I missed it because I was looking for an answer to come a different way.
- b) When I met the so-called owner, I asked for a national ID, which he did not have. He presented another ID, which was not a national ID. I did not insist on the national ID. I should have got up and left, but I did not, but rather considered the other ID which he had, and I took a photo of it, although it was possibly fake.
- c) I put too much trust in the guy/friend who was helping look for the house, who also found this house through the agents, because of what he knows about the city, and various places, and so forth.

**My trust should have been totally in the Lord, regardless of how much this guy knew and so forth. Never again. I will trust the Lord, not people, anymore, regardless of their experience.**

- d) The guy was also rushing me a little. He wanted to transact before the other guys who were a part of the house search came. I refused to transact until they showed up. His rushing was not aggressive, rather very subtle, citing how he had a court case and had to be there on time. He also mentioned a day before that he needed money right away to hold the house.
- e) I moved too fast. I saw the house the evening before, and I was ready to pay the next day. I should have taken a few days and not bowed to the pressure of the house being taken if I had not acted fast. I could have trusted the Lord to preserve it for me and refused to panic or rush.

Through this personal experience, I learned various things, such as not to follow or seek peace *alone*. I had peace, but I missed the other red flags. You could say I had a **false peace**, and because I did not combine this with other ways God leads and speaks to us, I was misled. Peace must be combined with other ways God speaks to us, such as inner witness, still small voice, desires of our hearts, timing of the decision, not fear tactics, pressure to act, and so forth.

I have also learned and am still learning *not* to force things. If I always have to force things and constantly push for results, I have left God's grace and His will. I need to back off and allow the Lord to accomplish it. God does not force things. This does not, however, mean being passive.

If things are consistently and always causing a lot of frustration, delay, or friction and are not yielding the desired fruit, and have a lack of progress, chances could be that we are out of grace and God's will.

Again, I have seen this happen over and over. Another time, in the early days of the leadership of Andrew Wommack Ministries in Uganda, there was a desire from the previous director to move to a new location. Why not? There were enough signs to move in that direction. I went, and I prayed about it, and I got an instruction from the Lord. I made a decision for the ministry not to move to a new location, at least not at that time. I was totally convinced and persuaded that the Lord led me to stay in the current place. I turned down a beautiful, lucrative place that could have doubled our size. It was a brand-new building owned by a Christian organization. I mean it looks like this place checked all the boxes, including the monthly rent cost, but once I heard from the Lord, I turned it down. I refused to take it, and I was determined not to backtrack on the Lord. Fast forward, two months later, the gentleman in charge of making decisions reached out and wanted to talk once more, possibly with a better offer on the table for me to move in. I did not even give it any new thought. Why? Because the Lord had spoken to me, and I was not going to have the prophet of Judah syndrome and get burned. I was not going to backtrack on the Lord even if they offered it for free.

When God speaks to you, these sidelining opportunities will continue to arise, but you must keep turning them down, no matter how enticing they are or how good they sound.

### Nehemiah

Nehemiah 6:4-5 Yet they sent unto me **four times** after this sort; and I answered them after the same manner. Then sent Sanballat his servant unto me in like manner the **fifth time** with an open letter in his hand; (Emphasis mine)

- a) Nehemiah resisted the enemies that were wanting to meet with him to do mischief, hinder, and/or sabotage the work of the Lord.

### Joseph

. Genesis 39:10 And it came to pass, as she spake to Joseph day by day, that he hearkened not unto her, to lie by her, or to be with her.

- a) Joseph refused to backtrack on what he knew was the right thing to do from the Lord