

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Why did King Joash seek advice from a man who was on his deathbed?
2. How could this man who was “sick unto death” have sound reasoning?
3. How can we avoid the diminished zeal of King Joash?
4. Is it possible for our influence to continue even after our death?

SUMMARY:

God’s promise through the prophet even on his deathbed was that God would give victory to Israel. However, the half-heartedness of the king in striking the ground with the arrows then limited the promise made. Perhaps our inability to do great things for God is due to a lack of real zeal on our part.

The prophet was an influence long after his death. We too, should live our lives in such a way that we can be an influence even after we are taken to our rest in the Lord.

NOTES:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #11

June 10, 2018

Second Quarter

ELISHA’S FINAL PROPHECY

LESSON TEXT: *2 Kings 13:14-21*

LESSON SETTING: Israel in Samaria

TIME: Approximately 856 B.C.

- I. THE PROPHET’S LAST MESSAGE.** *2 Kings 13:14-17*
 - A. The Prophet Sought (vs. 14) *Luke 7:26-28*
 - B. Promise of Deliverance (vs. 17) *Exodus 3:8; Psalm 91:3; 2 Peter 2:9*
- II. THE KING’S LIMITED FAITH.** *2 Kings 13:18-19*
 - A. Half-Hearted Obedience (vs. 18) *1 Samuel 15:13, 20-21; 2 Kings 10:31*
 - B. More Zealousness Requested (vs. 19) *Ecclesiastes 9:10; 2 Peter 1:13*
- III. THE PROPHET’S CONTINUING INFLUENCE.** *2 Kings 13:20-21*
 - A. Elisha’s Death and Burial (vs. 20)
 - B. Continuing Influence (vs. 21) *Matthew 26:13; Hebrews 11:4; 2 Peter 1:15*

GOLDEN TEXT: . . . *CHRIST SHALL BE MAGNIFIED IN MY BODY, WHETHER IT BE BY LIFE, OR BY DEATH.* *Philippians 1:20*

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: The Book of Jonah

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: 2 Kings 14:23-27;
Matthew 12:38-42; 16:1-4;
Luke 11:29-32; Romans 12:1-8

QUARTERLY THEME: King and Prophets of Israel

TOPIC: JONAH, THE RELUCTANT MISSIONARY

INTRODUCTION:

The story of Jonah is one that has been familiar to most of us from our early childhood. The experience of Jonah in the ship and then in the belly of the fish captures the imagination of all children as they consider what he went through during those agonizing days.

The real message is not just his experience, but also the result of his final obedience to God, namely that God's message to the Ninevites was delivered and as a result the people repented, from the least to the greatest, a deep repentance in sackcloth and ashes. As a result, God's judgment was stayed for a period of time.

How do we react? When God calls do we try to assert our own ideas as to how we should serve Him? Do we have our own ideas how the message is to be delivered? Do we, even as Jonah, have prejudices against a particular service and perhaps even refuse to do His bidding because it is distasteful to us?

May we be diligent in carrying out God's commands.

CENTRAL TRUTH: Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice.

1 Samuel 15:22

GOLDEN TEXT: . . . *BEHOLD, TO OBEY IS BETTER THAN SACRIFICE.*

1 Samuel 15:22

These words spoken by Samuel to King Saul were delivered at a time when Saul—receiving a command to destroy a certain enemy along with all their livestock—brought some of the “best of the sheep and oxen” to offer as a sacrifice. As we should say “he passed the buck” to the people and tried to lay the responsibility on them. However, as king, the command was given to him and the responsibility to carry it out was his. The result of disobedience was the loss of God's blessing and even His presence.

So it is with us today. God is more pleased with an obedient person, one who obeys His commands and His Word rather than one who only brings gifts of tithing or whatever the gift may be.

Jonah also learned that obedience was really the only way out. He tried to run from his responsibility, but the hand of the Lord reached out and stopped him. After a period of chastising, he finally repented and promised to carry out God's command.

We too must learn that we must obey the Lord's commands. We cannot enjoy His blessing and have real peace and joy without total yieldedness and completed obedience. We cannot be an effective tool in the hands of the Lord if we try to serve Him in the way we think is right instead of doing as He commands.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF June 11 – 17

- M. *Jonah, the Willful Prophet. Jonah 1:1-17
- T. *Jonah's Prayer. Jonah 2:1-10
- W. *Nineveh's Repentance. Jonah 3:1-10
- T. *Jonah's Self-will. Jonah 4:1-11
- F. The Sign of Jonah. Matthew 12:38-42
- S. A Greater than Jonah. Luke 11:29-32
- S. A Surrendered Life. Romans 12:1-8

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