

Lessons from Micaiah

1 Kings 22:1-39 Summarize the story

- There has been a time of peace for at least 3 years.
- Ahab, King of Israel (booo) decides he wants to take Ramoth in Gilead, but does not feel he has the strength to take it from Syria.
- Jehoshaphat, King of Judah, comes to visit with Ahab and Ahab proposes they join forces.
- Jehoshaphat agrees immediately, but then asks that Ahab inquire of God concerning the upcoming battle.
- Ahab gathers his prophets and they all say it's all good, let's do it.
- Jehoshaphat asks for a true prophet of God.
- Ahab says there is one, Micaiah, but he hates him. He never prophesies good things concerning me.
- So Micaiah comes and after some back and forth he finally prophesies that Israel will be scattered and there will be no shepherd (no king).
- Ahab is like – I told you so.
- Micaiah warns them not to listen to the false prophets and shares a crazy vision of heaven he had that warns about listening to false prophets.
- They ignore Micaiah and go into battle.
- Israel is soundly defeated and Ahab is killed by some rando.

Why is this historical account in the Bible and what do we learn from it?

Lesson #1 – Be discerning with whom you align yourself.

- When asked to align with Ahab, this was Jehoshaphat's response:

1 Kings 22:4-5 So he said to Jehoshaphat, "Will you go with me to fight at Ramoth Gilead?" Jehoshaphat said to the king of Israel, "I *am* as you *are*, my people as your people, my horses as your horses." ⁵ Also Jehoshaphat said to the king of Israel, "Please inquire for the word of the LORD today."

- Why does Ahab seek alliance with Jehoshaphat? Jehoshaphat is a godly man who has had much success as a king due to God's blessing. Ahab sees something in Jehoshaphat that he wants.

- Many non-Christians or immature Christians may have the same reaction to our lives.
- (Vs. 4) How does Jehoshaphat respond? Poorly. I *am* as you *are*, my people as your people, my horses as your horses. He does not make note of the differences in their lives, nor does he inquire of the Lord about this partnership until they are in it.
 - Are we quick to appease others when they desire to link arms with us, or do we take it before God because of fear of appearing harsh?
 - Are we quick to make promises without God's consultation?
- Alliances with the wrong people lead to bad results.
 - **1 Corinthians 15:33** Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits."
 - **Psalms 1:1-2** Blessed *is* the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; ² But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.
 - **2 Corinthians 6:14-15** Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? ¹⁵ And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever?
- Consultation with God before acting is vital.
 - **Proverbs 3:5-7** Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. ⁷ Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and depart from evil.

Lesson #2 – Listen to God's voice and stand with Him even if that is counter-cultural.

1 Kings 22:6 Then the king of Israel gathered the prophets together, about four hundred men, and said to them, "Shall I go against Ramoth Gilead to fight, or shall I refrain?" So they said, "Go up, for the Lord will deliver *it* into the hand of the king."

- Micaiah's prophecy will go against 400 false prophets of a false God.

- Sometimes standing on the truth of God will make you go against what everyone else is doing.
- Micaiah had to do this standing before 2 kings with all those prophets in his presence.
- **But Standing with God especially when unpopular is vital.**

1 Kings 22:10-12 The king of Israel and Jehoshaphat the king of Judah, having put on *their* robes, sat each on his throne, at a threshing floor at the entrance of the gate of Samaria; and all the prophets prophesied before them. ¹¹ Now Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah had made horns of iron for himself; and he said, "Thus says the LORD: 'With these you shall gore the Syrians until they are destroyed.' " ¹² And all the prophets prophesied so, saying, "Go up to Ramoth Gilead and prosper, for the LORD will deliver *it* into the king's hand."

- This prophesy came with a lot of good imagery.
- This prophesy said exactly what they wanted to hear.
- 2 horns would represent the 2 kings. Iron = strength.
- The words "Go Up" are strong prophetic words quoting from past genuine prophets.
- In fact, we will learn a little later that this was not a human prophesy at all, but given by a demonic spirit.

Logic and Reasoning should not be mistaken for God's voice.

Learning to recognize the voice of God is vital to our walk with Christ.

Unity in a message does not equate to truth in the message.

- **Proverbs 11:14** Where *there is* no counsel, the people fall; But in the multitude of counselors *there is* safety.
- However – only in the multitude of Godly counselors!
 - **Psalms 33:10-11** The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; He makes the plans of the peoples of no effect. ¹¹ The counsel of the LORD stands forever, The plans of His heart to all generations.
- Even people that mean well may encourage you to blend in with the world's message.

- **1 Kings 22:13** Then the messenger who had gone to call Micaiah spoke to him, saying, "Now listen, the words of the prophets with one accord encourage the king. Please, let your word be like the word of one of them, and speak encouragement."
- Our world currently is telling us all kind of terrible messages:
 - Be inclusive – sounds good, but the underlying message is that nothing is sin, people can do whatever and we must say that it is good.
 - Family is not important
 - Reserving sex for marriage is old-fashioned and not for today.
- Yet just those 3 messages have a direct result of people being more depressed, more anxious, more suicidal than ever before. They have caused crime to soar, and poverty to rise.
- We have proven that the best way for a person to succeed is with a mother and father in a loving stable family. All other scenarios run a significantly higher statistical probability of terrible outcomes.
 - Of course God is able to change our statistical disadvantages to create good when we surrender to Him, and having advantages does not guarantee good if we also deny Him.

What does Micaiah do in the face of all this pressure? He prophesies the truth.

- **1 Kings 22:17** Then he said, "I saw all Israel scattered on the mountains, as sheep that have no shepherd. And the LORD said, 'These have no master. Let each return to his house in peace.' "

We must stand with God's truth even in the face of persecution!

- We see this with Noah, Daniel, Elijah, John the Baptist, Jesus, The Apostles...

Lesson #3 - Micaiah's vision reveals many things about the spirit realm.

1 Kings 22:19 Then *Micaiah* said, "Therefore hear the word of the Lord: I saw the Lord sitting on His throne, and all the host of heaven standing by, on His right hand and on His left.

- After Micaiah saw the Lord on His throne, and all the host of heaven, the sight of two kings probably did not impress Him.

- What we are keep our eyes on gives us strength when the physical is intimidating.
- **Romans 8:5-6** For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those *who live* according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. ⁶ For to be carnally minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace.

1 Kings 22:20-23 And the LORD said, "Who will persuade Ahab to go up, that he may fall at Ramoth Gilead?" So one spoke in this manner, and another spoke in that manner. ²¹ Then a spirit came forward and stood before the LORD, and said, "I will persuade him." ²² The LORD said to him, "In what way?" So he said, "I will go out and be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets." And the LORD said, "You shall persuade *him*, and also prevail. Go out and do so." ²³ Therefore look! The LORD has put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these prophets of yours, and the LORD has declared disaster against you."

- Micaiah's prophecy reveals several things about God:
- God is the great King above all kings.
- He is continually attended by the host of heaven, ready to do His bidding
 - a. Some people forget that Satan and his fellow fallen angels have access to heaven (Job 1:6, Revelation 12:10). There is a well-intentioned but mistaken teaching that *God can allow no evil in His presence*, meaning that Satan and other fallen angels could not be in His presence. These passages show that God *can* allow evil in His presence, though He can have no *fellowship* with evil and one day all evil will be removed from His presence (Revelation 20:14-15).
- That he not only takes cognizance of, but presides over, all the affairs of this lower world (earth), and is active in what is happening.
- That God has many ways of bringing about his own counsels, particularly concerning the fall of sinners when they are ripe for ruin; he can do it either in this manner or in that manner.
- That there are malicious and lying spirits which go about continually seeking to devour, and, in order to that, seeking to deceive, and especially to put lies into the mouths of prophets, by them to entice many to their destruction.
- It is not without the divine permission that the devil deceives men, and even thereby God serves his own purposes.

Lesson #4 - God did not cause the disaster, He revealed truth, and they were given the option to listen to God or listen to the world.

1 Kings 22:29 So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat the king of Judah went up to Ramoth Gilead.

- The battle to gain Ramoth failed.
- But by giving the truth through Micaiah, God did not force them into disaster, He allowed them to choose.
- Through this, they saw that God was the one that could be trusted.
- Did God cause them to fail? No!
- Did God warn them? Yes!

People think that God is one to send people to hell, to sit there and wait for us to fail, or to set us up to fail to teach us lessons.

In fact, God is on our side. Speaking to us. Revealing Himself to us. But giving us the choice to fail. Giving people the choice to reject Him and spend eternity in hell. It is His will all are saved.

But we make our own choices.

2 Chronicles 20:31-37 So Jehoshaphat was king over Judah. *He was thirty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned twenty-five years in Jerusalem.* His mother's name *was* Azubah the daughter of Shilhi. ³² And he walked in the way of his father Asa, and did not turn aside from it, doing *what was* right in the sight of the LORD. ³³ Nevertheless the high places were not taken away, for as yet the people had not directed their hearts to the God of their fathers. ³⁴ Now the rest of the acts of Jehoshaphat, first and last, indeed they *are* written in the book of Jehu the son of Hanani, which *is* mentioned in the book of the kings of Israel. ³⁵ After this Jehoshaphat king of Judah allied himself with Ahaziah king of Israel, who acted very wickedly. ³⁶ And he allied himself with him to make ships to go to Tarshish, and they made the ships in Ezion Geber. ³⁷ But Eliezer the son of Dodavah of Mareshah prophesied against Jehoshaphat, saying, "Because you have allied yourself with Ahaziah, the LORD has destroyed your works." Then the ships were wrecked, so that they were not able to go to Tarshish.