

# A MAN OF GOD

## 1 KINGS 13

Text: 1 Kings 13:1

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<sup>1</sup> And, behold, there came a man of God out of Judah by the word of the LORD unto Bethel: and Jeroboam stood by the altar to burn incense.

Introduction:

Here is the story of an unnamed prophet of God who started well, but didn't finish well. This is a good reminder to all that total obedience is what God expects of us. May we be able to say with Paul in 2 Timothy 4:7, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:"

## **1. HE WAS STRONG - VS. 1-6**

(1 Ki 13:1-6) "And, behold, there came a man of God out of Judah by the word of the LORD unto Bethel: and Jeroboam stood by the altar to burn incense. {2} And he cried against the altar in the word of the LORD, and said, O altar, altar, thus saith the LORD; Behold, a child shall be born unto the house of David, Josiah by name; and upon thee shall he offer the priests of the high places that burn incense upon thee, and men's bones shall be burnt upon thee. {3} And he gave a sign the

same day, saying, This is the sign which the LORD hath spoken; Behold, the altar shall be rent, and the ashes that are upon it shall be poured out. {4} And it came to pass, when king Jeroboam heard the saying of the man of God, which had cried against the altar in Bethel, that he put forth his hand from the altar, saying, Lay hold on him. And his hand, which he put forth against him, dried up, so that he could not pull it in again to him. {5} The altar also was rent, and the ashes poured out from the altar, according to the sign which the man of God had given by the word of the LORD. {6} And the king answered and said unto the man of God, Entreat now the face of the LORD thy God, and pray for me, that my hand may be restored me again. And the man of God besought the LORD, and the king's hand was restored him again, and became as it was before."

A. Obedient (By the word of God vs. 1)

B. Fearless

1. The man boldly proclaimed the message that God had given him to a hostile king.

C. Compassionate (vs 6)

(1 Ki 13:6) "And the king answered and said unto the man of God, Entreat now the face of the LORD thy God, and pray for me, that my hand may be restored me

again. And the man of God besought the LORD, and the king's hand was restored him again, and became as it was before."

## **2. HE WAS SEPARATED - VS. 7-10**

(1 Ki 13:7-10) "And the king said unto the man of God, Come home with me, and refresh thyself, and I will give thee a reward. {8} And the man of God said unto the king, If thou wilt give me half thine house, I will not go in with thee, neither will I eat bread nor drink water in this place: {9} For so was it charged me by the word of the LORD, saying, Eat no bread, nor drink water, nor turn again by the same way that thou camest. {10} So he went another way, and returned not by the way that he came to Bethel."

A. God had told the prophet not to eat or drink and to go home another way.

B. He was to have no fellowship with those who were unbelievers.

(2 Cor 6:14-18) "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? {15} And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? {16} And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye

are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. {17} Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, {18} And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty."

2 Cor 7:1) "Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."

### **3. HE WAS SWAYED - VSS. 11-19**

(1 Ki 13:11-19) "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."

A. Another prophet convinced him that he should go home with him and eat.

B. He allowed the other prophet to sway him into disobeying God.

1. It is often those who are most like us that convinces us to do wrong.

#### **4. HE WAS SCOLDED - VS. 20-22**

(1 Ki 13:20-22) "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."

A. The very prophet who deceived him was the one who gave him a message of condemnation.

## **5. HE WAS SILENCED - VS. 23-34**

(1 Ki 13:23-24) "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."

Perhaps this prophet had a great career ahead of him, but he was silenced because of his own disobedience.