

Elijah/Elisha – Standing Alone

Week 21 – The End of Ahab

Transition: Last week we studied a strange interchange between Israel's prophet (Elisha) and Hazael (the right-hand man of Ben-hadad, the king of Syria). Hazael is sent by the king to inquire if the king will recover from his illness, but ultimately found out much, much more from God's spokesman.

Context: This week we are returning to the story of Ahab, the wicked king of Israel. Although he was killed (1 Kings 22:29-38), his legacy of abomination carried on for many years through his son and other family members. Both Elijah and Elisha prophesied of both Ahab's and his family's ultimate destruction, which culminates in this passage.

Opening Questions:

- What are some pros and cons for holding onto long-standing traditions?
- Have you ever battled for keeping or letting go of a tradition? What was the tradition? What was your stance, and why? How did it turn out? What did you learn from the experience?

Scripture/Storying: 2 Kings 9-10

Discipleship Questions:

- What is your overall reaction to this passage? What impression does it make on you and why?
- Elisha sent his servant to do a dangerous thing for the Lord. Have you ever been in danger in the process of serving the Lord? If so, what was it? How did you decide to do what you did? How did it turn out?
- In the process of taking on the kingship of Israel, Jehu killed a lot of people. What is your reaction to this and why do you think God directed people to carry out this kind of behavior? How can God be both good and direct someone to kill others?
- Elijah prophesied that Ahab's family would be wiped out completely (1 Kings 21:17-24). In this text, God's word of judgment becomes a reality. In what ways have you experienced the reliability of God's word? How does the dependability of God's word bring you comfort? How might it bring others dread?
- It took a while for judgment to fall on Jezebel and Ahab's descendants, but it finally came. Have you ever struggled with God's timetable when it comes to the topic of justice? Give some examples. What hope does this story of delayed justice coming to fruition give us for past and future wrongs being made right?
- Jehu says he had zeal for the Lord and yet he did not follow the Lord completely (by destroying the golden calves and ending alternative worship to Israel's God). What traditions or beliefs do some Christians hold that are not truly biblical? How can a person keep from making a similar mistake him/herself?
- What is the Holy Spirit teaching you through this story? How does it impact the way you think and live?

Prayer time: This week we are praying for Street Hope TN, a ministry that Providence supports.

- Pray for the students and parents who will be taking a Street Hope TN Prevention class this month.
- Pray for the people and resources God will bring to Street Hope TN.
- Pray for continued wisdom for the leaders of Street Hope TN.
- Pray that the residents of Garland Oaks will continue to be radically transformed by Christ.