**18 – Loyalty of Micaiah**

*1 Kings 22:14; Galatians 1:10*

**Context** (Note: Already have looked at this passage once in the *Desirable Characteristics* study – Insistence of Jehoshaphat)

* North King – of Israel (Ahab) and South King – of Judah (Jehoshaphat) made a coalition to defeat Syria and take Ramoth in Gilead.
	+ Ahab was evil **(cf. 1 Kings 16:29-33)**
	+ Jehoshaphat was good **(cf. 1 Kings 22:41-43a)**.
* Jehoshaphat agreed to help Ahab take Ramoth in Gilead, but wanted to inquire of the Lord first **(cf. 22:5)**.
	+ This would require a prophet. Ahab has had a bad experience with true prophets.
		- True Prophets – **Deuteronomy 18:17-22 (Ahab was able to know which prophet was true)**
	+ Micaiah was a true prophet of the Lord, but Ahab did not like him – **(cf. 22:7-8)**.
		- Ahab did not desire truth (**cf. 22:6** – 400 prophets who he knew would tell him what he wanted to hear – **22:13** – tried to influence Micaiah).
		- Jehoshaphat insisted that a true prophet inquire of the Lord. Thus they sent for Micaiah.

**Micaiah**

* Micaiah responded to the messenger with loyalty to God – **(cf. 22:13-14)**.
	+ He knew of the corruption of Ahab, and his appointment of prophets to tickle his ears.
	+ Hence, his response – **(cf. 22:15-18)**.
		- He responded ironically and sarcastically by telling Ahab what he wanted to hear (what the other prophets spoke). Ahab knew what he was doing.
	+ Micaiah’s persistence – **(cf. 22:19-28)**.
		- Micaiah did not take back his word.
		- He explained that God was allowing Ahab to deceive himself.
		- He reaffirmed that his prophecy was from God **(cf. 22:28)**.

**The Loyalty of Micaiah**

* Even in the midst of opposition, and being the only one, he desired only to speak God’s word – **(cf. 22:14)**.
* He, as a prophet, was not appointed by man, but by God.
	+ **Hebrews 1:1** – At this time God was speaking in this way. Therefore, He would have to choose who He would speak through.
	+ **2 Peter 1:19-21** – Prophecy comes by the will of God, and prophets cannot speak for themselves in times of prophecy, but are moved by God – once again, God must choose.
	+ **Jeremiah 1:4-10** – God chose Jeremiah to prophesy. This took place with all prophets. God chose them.
* Same with the apostles.
	+ **Ephesians 2:19-22** – God laid the foundation of the apostles and prophets. This is the inspired truth.
	+ **Galatians 1:10** – This is why Paul (and Micaiah) were set on being loyal to God!
		- He was not appointed by men, but by God.
		- He does not receive authority from men, but from God.
		- Why would he seek to please men?
	+ **Galatians 1:11-12** – It would make no sense for Paul to preach another message to please man, because that was not his appointment. (In fact, that whole concept is illogical – appointed by God to please men?)
* The man of God – **2 Timothy 3:16-17** (Man of God = preacher in context – although can be applied to all Christians appropriately).
	+ **2 Timothy 4:1-5** – A man of God is no longer a man of God when he seeks to please men.
		- Fulfill your ministry – this is what you were appointed to do. This is your purpose in preaching.

**The Christian**

* **1 Peter 4:11** – A Christian must only speak where God speaks, and must live to glorify God.
* **Ephesians 4:1** – It does not make sense to walk differently than we have been called.
	+ We are to rise up and walk in newness of life, serving God!
	+ This requires our loyalty to Him in everything **(cf. Romans 12:1**).
	+ It does not make sense, and is not profitable, to live any other way.

**All of Mankind**

* **Ecclesiastes 12:13** – Man has a created purpose.
	+ It does not make sense to live according to another purpose (**cf. Romans 1:24-25**).
	+ This includes living for self-pleasure rather than living for God.

**Infidelity = temporary pleasure, then eternal punishment.**

* **Cf. Matthew 6:1-6; 7:21-22** – Those who seek to be seen by men, and who seek to please men, will not receive the reward of eternal life.

**Fidelity/loyalty = possible suffering in physical life, but possible/probable benefit, and the reward in the end.**

* **Cf. 2 Corinthians 4:16-18; 2 Timothy 4:6-9** – Our loyalty to God may result in hardship now, but He makes an irrevocable promise of eternal reward later.
	+ However, there is also physical benefit to being loyal to God – ***“For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come” (1 Timothy 4:8)***.