

Elisha 16 - Unfinished Business

All the messages we have received from Elisha's ministry have provided valuable instructions for us to learn as we minister to people. However, today our focus shifts from the ministry activities of Elisha to the failures of Jehu. Although this lesson is not directly related to Elisha's ministry actions, we can still extract a crucial principle for our own Christian service. Jehu is an example of the need to not only expect anointed preaching, but for people to have anointed hearing to receive instruction. As we share our experience with people, we will be helping them develop plans for their own lives. The principle is that we need to exhort and encourage people to *follow through* with their plans.

1. Jehu obeyed...sort of -

2Kgs 9:1-10 And Elisha the prophet called one of the children of the prophets, and said unto him, Gird up thy loins, and take this box of oil in thine hand, and go to Ramothgilead:

2And when thou comest thither, look out there Jehu the son of Jehoshaphat the son of Nimshi, and go in, and make him arise up from among his brethren, and carry him to an inner chamber;

3Then take the box of oil, and pour *it* on his head, and say, Thus saith the LORD, I have anointed thee king over Israel. Then open the door, and flee, and tarry not.

[The full message of Elisha to Jehu appears when the prophet delivers it to Jehu]

4So the young man, *even* the young man the prophet, went to Ramothgilead.

5And when he came, behold, the captains of the host *were* sitting; and he said, I have an errand to thee, O captain. And Jehu said, Unto which of all us? And he said, To thee, O captain.

6And he arose, and went into the

house; and he poured the oil on his head, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I have anointed thee king over the people of the LORD, *even* over Israel.

7And thou shalt smite the house of Ahab thy master, that I may avenge the blood of my servants the prophets, and the blood of all the servants of the LORD, at the hand of Jezebel.

8For the whole house of Ahab shall perish...

9And I will make the house of Ahab like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and like the house of Baasha the son of Ahijah:

10And the dogs shall eat Jezebel in the portion of Jezreel, and *there shall be none to bury her*. And he opened the door, and fled.

Jehu was anointed by a prophet sent from Elisha as king over Israel and given a specific mission to execute God's judgment against the house of Ahab, including Jezebel, the queen mother, and all the descendants of Ahab. In vs. 11-37, we see how Jehu fulfilled this mission to some extent by eliminating the family of Ahab and eradicating Baal worship in Israel. But, while Jehu executed God's judgment against the house of Ahab, he did not completely fulfill God's will. In ch. 10, we see that he brought together the prophets of Baal, who thought they had been invited to a party, and slew them.

2Kgs 10:25-28 And it came to pass, as soon as he had made an end of offering the burnt offering, that Jehu said to the guard and to the captains, Go in, *and* slay them; let none come forth. And they smote them with the edge of the sword; and the guard and the captains cast *them* out, and went to the city of the house of Baal.

26And they brought forth the images out of the house of Baal,

and burned them.

27And they brake down the image of Baal, and brake down the house of Baal, and made it a draught house unto this day.

28Thus Jehu destroyed Baal out of Israel.

He could *technically* say that he did as he was told. What he did was all well and good as far as it went. Baal worship was put down, but Jehu left a little something in place. *Baalism* was repressed, but Jehu left the golden calves of Jeroboam, the first king of northern Israel, in place.

2Kgs 10:29-31 Howbeit *from* the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin, Jehu departed not from after them, *to wit*, the golden calves that *were* in Bethel, and that *were* in Dan.

30And the LORD said unto Jehu, Because thou hast done well in executing *that which is* right in mine eyes, *and* hast done unto the house of Ahab according to all that *was* in mine heart, thy children of the fourth *generation* shall sit on the throne of Israel.

31But Jehu took no heed to walk in the law of the LORD God of Israel with all his heart: for he departed not from the sins of Jeroboam, which made Israel to sin.

2Ki 10:29-31 are Jehu's epitaph. Of all the things that he did in obedience as king, it was his failure to obey that was carved on his tombstone. Also, although he was specifically to bring God's vengeance on the house of Ahab, he *should* have had a clue that God would have been upset with him for leaving the golden calves of Jeroboam in place. In ch. 9:9, God had let him know that what Jeroboam had done was judged.

You have to ask how sincere someone is when they leave a little something just in case they want to go back to their old sin. People will clean up

their lives...for the most part...but they hold back a little bit. It is that little bit that triggers the old temptations. It is our failure to clean house completely that draws us back into the world. Nothing good comes from alcohol, but we keep a few bottles just in case...but just in case of what? In case we think we can handle it? In case we have company?

Hab 2:15 Woe unto him that giveth his neighbour drink, that puttest thy bottle to *him*, and makest *him* drunken also, that thou mayest look on their nakedness!

People give up drugs, *except* for a little weed every once in a while because after all, it's 'legal' now. They give up the world, but don't discipline what they fill themselves with from modern shows.

The golden calves of Jeroboam was not outright Baal worship, but they were a kind of gateway drug to Israel which became centers of idolatrous worship. Jehu's failure to abolish these idols meant that Israel continued to engage in false worship, deviating from God's commandments. Jeroboam had introduced a system of worship that involved setting up golden calves in Bethel and Dan to prevent the people of the northern kingdom from going to Jerusalem to worship at the Temple. Jehu perpetuated these practices, allowing the people to worship at these unauthorized places.

It is important to note that God commended Jehu for fulfilling the specific mission of executing judgment against the house of Ahab, as it was God's plan to bring judgment upon them. However, Jehu's failure to fully obey God's law and eliminate idolatry in Israel meant that he fell short in fully carrying out the work of reform and restoration that God desired.

2Kgs 10:30-31 And the LORD said unto Jehu, Because thou hast done well in executing *that which is* right in mine eyes, *and* hast done unto the house of Ahab

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Jehu's incomplete commitment to God had personal consequences. While he may have achieved some temporary success and gained political power, his reign was characterized by violence, bloodshed, and political intrigue. One of the repercussions of Jehu's incomplete commitment to God was that his dynasty did not experience the same long-lasting stability and blessings promised to those who faithfully followed the Lord. In 2 Kings 10:30, God acknowledged Jehu's actions of destroying the house of Ahab, but He also declared that only "to the fourth generation your sons will sit on the throne of Israel." This implied that Jehu's dynasty would not enjoy a permanent rule or enduring prosperity. The kings from Jehu's lineage, including Jehoahaz, Jehoash, and Jeroboam II, did continue to rule in Israel. They followed in the footsteps of their forefather by perpetuating idolatry and failing to fully turn their hearts towards God. This led to the continued spiritual decline and eventual downfall of the northern kingdom of Israel.

2. Failure to follow through -

There was a popular movie title called "Failure to Launch." This is also known as Peter Pan Syndrome where someone gets older and just never seems to launch into adulthood. Adult children living with parents is not always a bad thing...except if they are avoiding the responsibilities of adulthood. Similarly, there are Christians who seem to never really move on from being a spiritual babe. They commit their heart and life to God, but they just sort of stay in limbo.

1Cor 3:1-3 And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, *even* as unto babes in Christ.

2I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able *to bear it*, neither yet now are ye able.

3For ye are yet carnal: for whereas *there is* among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?

Heb 5:12-14 For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which *be* the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.

13For every one that useth milk *is* unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.

14But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, *even* those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

When we fail to follow through with our commitment to God, it can have spiritual and practical consequences. We face the same problem in churches, although on a different scale than what Jehu experienced. There is always the problem of people not being fully engaged, not fully reliable, and only partly involved. It's important to understand that God desires faithfulness and obedience. Failing to uphold our commitment to Him can hinder our relationship with Him and affect various aspects of our lives.

When we fail to follow through with our commitment to God, it can hinder our spiritual growth and intimacy with Him.

Failing to follow through with our commitment to God can lead to feelings of guilt and conviction. The Holy Spirit works in our hearts to convict us when we go astray. This conviction is meant to

draw us back to repentance and restoration.

Our commitment to God often involves serving and ministering to others. When we neglect our commitment, we may miss opportunities to bless and impact the lives of others. Our failure to fulfill our commitment can have a ripple effect, affecting those around us and limiting the positive influence we could have had.

God blesses and rewards faithfulness. When we fail to fulfill our commitment, we may miss out on the blessings and rewards that come from walking in obedience to God. These blessings can include spiritual growth, answered prayers, and experiencing the fullness of God's plan for our lives.

Our commitment to God often includes living out our faith in a visible way before others. Our failure can impact our witness and credibility as Christians. It can give others a distorted view of God's faithfulness and hinder our ability to share the Gospel effectively.

In some cases, God may discipline us for our disobedience and failure to fulfill our commitment. His discipline is an expression of His love and desire to correct and shape us.

All of these problems become exacerbated when we keep a little bit of the old in place. When you leave sin in your life, it will *finish you!*

Jas 1:13-15 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:

14But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

15Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

3. God followed through -

Aren't you glad that God followed through when it came to the cross? He could have at any time stopped. When

Peter drew a sword in the garden, Jesus' response was:

Matt 26:53 Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?

John 19:30 When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

Jesus had a full view of His Father's plan that moved Him to fulfill His mission.

Heb 12:2-4 Looking unto Jesus the author and **finisher** of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

3For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

4Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.

There is always a problem in every generation of believers who frustrate those who are trying to serve God. They say that they are believers, but they just don't act like it. Then, they get offended if you question them. They shouldn't, because they are only looking out for them whether their faith is genuine or not. Although one's works do not determine their salvation, there is wisdom when the "Lord" aspect of Romans 10:13 is pointed out:

Rom 10:13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Salvation might not depend on whether we *successfully* obey, but there must be an attitude of *submitting* and *committing* oneself to Christ as Lord. Have you committed yourself to Christ

and asked for that salvation?

The challenge those who belong to Christ for today is to ask have we really cleaned out our spiritual house? Are we following through with our commitment to Christ in serving Him? Are we holding back on the Lord Who did not hold back on us? Are you willing to hold on to those things that keep you from your full service to God? God doesn't just say, "That's alright, you can hold on to that golden calf, I'll just use someone else." The rest of the Hebrews passage we read before continues:

Heb 12:5-7 And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:

6For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

7If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?

1. Jehu obeyed...sort of 2Kgs 9-10, Hab 2:15, 2Kgs 10:30-31
2. Failure to follow through - 1Cor 3:1-3, Heb 5:12-14, Jas 1:13-15
3. God followed through Matt 26:53, John 19:30, Heb 12:2-4, Rom 10:13, Heb 12:5-7