

November 17, 2024, Pastor Jason Smotherman

SERMON NOTES:

I Kings 13:1-24 (A lesson concerning the Word of the Lord)

And behold, a man of God went from Judah to Bethel by the word of the Lord, and Jeroboam stood by the altar to burn incense. Then he **cried out against the altar in (by) the word** of the Lord, and said, "O altar, altar! Thus says the Lord: 'Behold, a child, Josiah by name, shall be born to the house of David; and on you he shall sacrifice the priests of the high places who burn incense on you, and men's bones shall be burned on you.'

An unnamed Man of God from Judah is the backdrop for an incredible story of why men and women struggle with raising the standard in our own lives.

We know this unnamed man of God heard from God: the Prophecy made in verse 2 was fulfilled about 300 years later when Josiah was born. You can read about the fulfillment of this prophecy in 2 Kings 23:15-20.

1. This unnamed Man of God knew the power found in the word of the Lord.

Jeroboam, the current king, is crying against this unnamed man of God's words. **When it's from God, no notoriety is needed. The word of God stands on its own.** The king was confronted with an altar moment.

Three Altars God "most commonly" uses ...

THE ALTAR FOUND IN THE WORD

Deut 32:1

Give ear, O heavens, and I will speak; And hear, O earth, the words of my mouth.

Isaiah 1:2

Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth! For the Lord has spoken:

Jeremiah 2:1

O earth, earth, earth, Hear the word of the Lord!

Ezekiel 36:1



And you, son of man, prophesy to the mountains of Israel, and say, 'O mountains of Israel, hear the word of the Lord.

Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

The Word of the Lord (Logos and the Rhema) creates an altar moment.

The Logos - The written word of God is the foundation of the Rhema word of God.

The Rhema word of God is the NOW of what God is doing.

THE ALTAR FOUND IN WORSHIP

Luke 19:37

Then, as He was now drawing near the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works they had seen, saying: " 'Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!' Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" And some of the Pharisees called to Him from the crowd, "**Teacher, rebuke Your disciples.**" But He answered and said to them, "I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out."

The Pharisees were hearing the altar in the praise and worship of the Lord. They were rejecting the conviction of the proclamation.

THE ALTAR FOUND IN THE WAY.

You live enough life and you will realize that a man reaps what he sows. Our choices and decisions will create a "fruit" we have to eat. No one escapes this. The "WAY" we live our life creates an altar opportunity.

Proverbs 14:12

There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

Matthew 7:13-14

Enter by the narrow gate; for wide *is* the gate and broad *is* **the way** that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow *is* the gate and difficult *is* the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

Romans 6:20-23

For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. **What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things *is* death.** But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to

holiness, and the end, everlasting life. For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2. This unnamed Man of God knew the Judgement and Mercy found in the word of the Lord.

1 Kings 13:3-6

And he gave a sign the same day, saying, “This *is* the sign which the Lord has spoken: Surely the altar shall split apart, and the ashes on it shall be poured out.” So it came to pass when King Jeroboam heard the saying of the man of God, who cried out against the altar in Bethel, that he stretched out his hand from the altar, saying, “Arrest him!” Then his hand, which he stretched out toward him, withered, so that he could not pull it back to himself. The altar also was split apart, 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. Then the king answered and said to the man of God, “Please entreat the favor of the Lord your God, and pray for me, that my hand may be restored to me.” So the man of God entreated the Lord, and the king’s hand was restored to him, and became as before.

The King was raging. How dare this no name tell me what to do. He was about to find that both judgement and mercy are found at the altar of God. A withered hand represents that a king can no longer rule with an iron grip. God has a way of humbling those who can’t receive the altar found in the Word of the Lord.

3 types of people who can’t receive the altar in the Word of the Lord:

- 1) Those that can’t hear it. (Deceived)
- 2) Those that won’t hear it. (Distracted)
- 3) Those that won’t bear it. (Disobedient)

Who are you in this story?

We know the King represents “THEM”. Them being the Nation, the Community, maybe even others in the church. We are about to find out who we are in this story.

3. This unnamed Man of God would quickly realize that the rules didn’t just apply to THEE but also to ME.

1 Kings 23:6-24

Then the king said to the man of God, “Come home with me and refresh yourself, and I will give you a reward.” But the man of God said to the king, “If you were to give me half your house, I would not go in with you; nor would I eat bread nor drink water in this place. For so it was commanded me by the word of the Lord, saying, ‘You shall not eat bread, nor drink water, nor



return by the same way you came.' " So he went another way and did not return by the way he came to Bethel. Now an old prophet dwelt in Bethel, and his sons came and told him all the works that the man of God had done that day in Bethel; they also told their father the words which he had spoken to the king. And their father said to them, "Which way did he go?" For his sons had seen which way the man of God went who came from Judah. Then he said to his sons, "Saddle the donkey for me." So they saddled the donkey for him; and he rode on it, and went after the man of God, and found him sitting under an oak. Then he said to him, "Are you the man of God who came from Judah?" And he said, "I *am*." Then he said to him, "Come home with me and eat bread." And he said, "I cannot return with you nor go in with you; neither can I eat bread nor drink water with you in this place. For I have been told by the word of the Lord, 'You shall not eat bread nor drink water there, nor return by going the way you came.' " He said to him, "I too *am* a prophet as you *are*, and an angel spoke to me by the word of the Lord, saying, 'Bring him back with you to your house, that he may eat bread and drink water.' " (He was lying to him.) So he went back with him, and ate bread in his house, and drank water. Now it happened, as they sat at the table, that the word of the Lord came to the prophet who had brought him back; and he cried out to the man of God who came from Judah, saying, "Thus says the Lord: 'Because you have disobeyed the word of the Lord, and have not kept the commandment which the Lord your God commanded you, but you came back, ate bread, and drank water in the place of which *the Lord* said to you, "Eat no bread and drink no water," your corpse shall not come to the tomb of your fathers.' " So it was, after he had eaten bread and after he had drunk, that he saddled the donkey for him, the prophet whom he had brought back. When he was gone, a lion met him on the road and killed him. And his corpse was thrown on the road, and the donkey stood by it.

The Man of God forgot he wasn't the main character in the story line. God was.

Those of us who God uses are in danger of the ultimate deception.

Matthew 7:21-23

Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, '**Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?**' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

Example: The athletes most susceptible to dehydration are swimmers. They are in the very thing they need but not of the thing they need.

The church has been taken over by the perception that God's hand has to be against this nation because of what they have done, when in reality God's hand is against a nation because of what happens in his church.



Ezekiel 22:30

And I sought for a man among them that should make up the hedge and stand in the gap before Me for the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found none.

Just give him 1, let me be that 1!