Can We Be Sure?

Robert Harkrider · 1 Kings 13:1–32 · Series: **A History of The Churches**

INTRODUCTION

- One might wonder, why would God punish a man who did most of what he said for him to do?
- I believe this has been preserved in the book of God as a lesson for us today. To understand how important it is to obey all of what God says. Not just some of it or most of it.
- I believe this story illustrates very well some of the attitudes that have caused divisions in the religious world. Even good and sincere people.

1 He Trusted Him Because He Said He Was a Prophet

Matthew 7:15; 2 Corinthians 11:13–15

- First of all, he trusted this man because he said he was a prophet.
- Beware of false prophets who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they're ravening wolves.
- For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.
- So we need to test even preachers. Just because they claim to be a preacher of the Word of God, you need to get your book open and test them.

2 He Was Sincere, Feeling in His Heart It Was Right

Genesis 37:33; Acts 23:1; 2 Thessalonians 2:9–12

- I would say this man from Judah was sincere. Perhaps he felt in his heart that this was the right thing to do.
- Even though he was sincere and believed it, he could believe a lie, couldn't he?
- Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God unto this day.
- But good conscience by itself doesn't make it right.
- It's important that we keep an open heart.

3 He'd Obeyed Most of God's Commands

John 12:42–43; James 2:19–24; Acts 22:16

- But thirdly, he'd obeyed most of God's commands.
- We can believe and yet not fully obey. We stopped short of what God said.
- Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins.
- You see then that a man is justified by works and not by faith only.
- Arise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.

4 Perhaps He Thought the Holy Spirit Was Leading Him

Galatians 1:6–8; 1 Corinthians 2:10–13; Ephesians 3:3–5

- Perhaps he thought the Holy Spirit was leading him.

- But even if we or an angel from heaven preach any other gospel to you than that what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.
- How can we be sure if the Holy Spirit is leading us?
- The very things that you read in your Bible are revealed by the Holy Spirit.

5 Can We Really Be Sure?

1 John 2:3–5

- How can you know whether or not you're in a saved condition?
- He who says, I know him, and does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him.
- But whoever keeps his word truly the love of God is perfected in him, by this we know that we are in him.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Can you say, I know that I have searched the word of God, obeyed the word of God, left nothing short of the word of God. Whatever he says, I will do.**

MY NOTES