Lessons Learned Too Late

Curtis Pope · Series: **Having A Better Relationship With God**

INTRODUCTION

- We're talking this week about having a better relationship with God.
- In talking about having a better relationship with God, I've taken some lessons from the Old Testament.
- This morning I'd like to talk about a lesson that emphasizes the importance of making sure that we pay attention to God's word and do the things that God would have us to do.

1 There Came a Man of God From Judah

2 Kings 23

- Now, behold, there came a man of God from Judah to Bethel by the word of the Lord, while Jeroboam was standing by the altar to burn incense.
- But his hand which he stretched out against him dried up so that he couldn't draw it back to himself.
- If you were to give me half your house, I would not go with you, nor would I eat bread with you, nor would I drink water in this place.
- It would have been a story that would have inspired us all to recognize that you can't tamper with the kind of worship that the Lord has demanded.

2 He Listened to a Lie and Believed the Lie

- I want you to notice there is a consistent pattern in this story that lets us understand that the man of God knows what the rules are.
- I also am a prophet like you. And an angel spoke to me by the word of the Lord, saying, Bring him back with you to your house. But he lied to him.
- This man tells him something different than what God tells him, and he listens to the man who is supposed to be a prophet of God, even though the man lies to him.
- A lion met him on the way and killed him, and his body was thrown on the road with the donkey standing beside it.
- A story of a man who had so many things going for him, but yet the problem was he listened to a lie and believed the lie.

3 God Doesn't Contradict Himself

John 14:15; Ephesians 4:4

- The first thing we need to understand is that God doesn't contradict himself.
- If God has told us something in his word and we do otherwise, we have done something that contradicts the word of God rather than God being the one who contradicts himself.
- There it tells us, if you love me, you'll keep my commandments.

4 Religious Leaders Don't Always Tell the Truth

- I can't explain the reasons why some religious leaders don't tell the truth today.
- But even though we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we preach to you, he is to be accursed.
- So what we have to do is to make sure that we're living our lives in such a way so that we study the word of God and don't trust men with your souls.
- Make sure that even the things I tell you, even the things that all your preachers tell you, that you always compare to the Word of God.
- We're going to follow the word of God and we're going to do exactly what it says, not trusting other men, but trusting the word of God.

5 Sincerity Is No Excuse

Matthew 7:21–23

- Another thing that I think is what we can learn from this particular passage is the fact that sincerity is no excuse.
- Not everyone who says to me, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.
- But even though he was sincere, he still lost his life to teach us an important lesson.
- It's also very important for us to be sincerely right in making sure that we do what the Lord would have us to do.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Learn from the lesson that this young prophet died to teach you. And that is that God's word needs to be at the heart and core of what we are and what we do and what we believe.**

MY NOTES