

Lessons from the Prophets

Service

Text: 2 Kings 17:13-14

Introduction:

1. The prophets of God taught many things about the coming of the Messiah.
2. Yet they also had much to teach for the people of their own time.
3. The inspired word of God they preached was to correct and guide men in their faithfulness.
4. The examples they set in their lives demonstrated true obedience to God.
5. Thus, from the prophets many important lessons can be learned.

I. ACCEPT THE ASSIGNMENT

(ISAIAH 6:8)

- A. Nine times in Scripture God refers to His messengers as “my servants the prophets.”
 1. Seven times the phrase “His servants the prophets” is used.
 2. Three times the phrase “thy servants the prophets” is found.
- B. Clearly, the prophets of God were servants.
- C. To be a servant of God is to accept the work He would have one to do.
 1. Isaiah said, “Here am I, send me.”
 2. Though he struggled at times, Jeremiah accepted God’s work for him – even in the face of death (Jeremiah 20:9; 26:8, 11-15).
 3. Hosea accepted God’s role for him even though it involved great personal hardship (Hosea 1:2).
- D. To be a servant of God today, we must accept His assignment for us.
 1. Knowing the Gospel (Romans 1:16)
 2. Teaching the Gospel (Ephesians 4:15)
 3. Preaching the Gospel (1 Corinthians 9:16; Mark 16:15-16)
 4. Living the Gospel (Revelation 2:10)

II. HUMBLE THE HEART

(1 KINGS 12:20-24)

- A. To be a servant of God, one must have a heart that is submissive to His will.
- B. Like Shemaiah, one must be obedient even when it is unpopular.
- C. Like the young prophet, one must be obedient even when it is unprofitable (1 Kings 13:1-10; cf. Galatians 1:8-10; 2:11-16).
- D. Truly, the faithful prophets loved God and their neighbor more than themselves.

III. SUPPLY THE SERVICE

(HEBREWS 11)

- A. To be a servant of God, one must serve!
 1. Enoch walked; Noah prepared; Abraham obeyed!
 2. The prophets did the work of a servant.
- B. God has instructed His servants to be people of action (Ephesians 2:10; Titus 2:14; 2 Timothy 4:2, 5; James 1:22-25).
- C. Jesus is the example of the greatest servant of all (John 13:1-15; 19:10-11).

CONCLUSION: Like our Lord, we are not here to be served, but to serve (Matthew 20:25-28).