
I. Aim for Change/Learning Objectives
   By the end of this lesson, we will…
   1. IDENTIFY with Micaiah’s boldness in declaring the word of the Lord,
   2. ASPIRE to be like Micaiah when speaking the word of the Lord, and
   3. COMMIT to tell those in power what the Lord has said.

   Key Verse—“And Micaiah said, As the LORD liveth, what the LORD saith unto me, that will I speak.” (1 Kings 22:14, KJV)

II. People Places and Times
   Ramoth-gilead. This border city between Aram (Syria) and Israel, modern Tel ar-Ramith, is located on the eastern side of the Jordan River. It was declared a city of refuge by Moses (Deuteronomy 4:43) and provided pastureland for the Levites (Joshua 21:38).
   Benhadad. The king of Syria. He breaks with a treaty with Israel for another with Judah. His repeated attacks against Samaria fail. When he becomes ill, the prophet Elisha says he will not recover. Actually, he is smothered to death by Jazael the king’s messenger.

III. Background
   In 1 Kings 22, we find the kings of the Northern and Southern Kingdoms having trouble accepting the Word of God from His prophets. The king of the North, the evil Ahab, now holds the upper hand, while the king of the South, the God-fearing Jehoshaphat, has become his vassal. After three years of not receiving Syria’s promised tribute, Ahab wants to go to war against Benhadad, the Syrian king. Jehoshaphat wants counsel from the Lord (v. 5). Ahab agrees to listen to a god but not the God of Abraham; instead, he listens to the prophets of his own state religion, prophets of Baal (v. 6). These men are false prophets who tell Ahab what he wants to hear. Jehoshaphat wants to hear from a true prophet of God. Ahab then calls his officials to bring forth Micaiah, the son of Imlah (vv. 8-9). This passage is the only place Micaiah is mentioned in Scripture.

IV. The Lesson At-A-Glance…
   1. Micaiah’s Prophecy (1 Kings 22:15-18)
   2. Micaiah’s Vision (vv. 19-23)
   3. Micaiah Imprisoned (vv. 26-28)
V. In Depth with More Light on the Text

1. Micaiah’s Prophecy (1 Kings 22:15-18) Micaiah sarcastically told Ahab to attack and be victorious, the king knew something was wrong because Micaiah never agreed with Ahab’s prophets (vv. 15-16). Micaiah reported the opposite of what the false prophets had been saying. He told Ahab that he would be killed and his army scattered. This battle, according to Micaiah who spoke on behalf of the Almighty God, would be a disaster. Although Ahab asked for a true word from God, when it was spoken he pushed it aside and blamed the prophet for always being against him.

2. Micaiah’s Vision (vv. 19-23) The prophet spoke about a vision. Micaiah saw the Lord sitting on His throne surrounded by a host of angelic beings. These angelic beings were not there to advise God; instead, they served as witnesses of God’s omniscience and omnipotence. The Lord asks how He can persuade Ahab to fight Ramoth-Gilead. One spirit came forth with the plan to lie to the king through his prophets. Then Yahweh gave him permission to go and do so.

3. Micaiah Imprisoned (vv. 26-28) Ahab didn’t like what Micaiah said so he did what all tyrants do. He put him in prison to shut him up. When a person or a nation stifles the truth by silencing those who speak out for the truth, it is denying a basic right. But killing a man who tells the truth does not change the truth. Truth will conquer and often with deadly accuracy.

Liberating Lesson—see Sunday School book for additional comments

Application for Activation—see Sunday School book

Truth must be spoken, yet the Scripture exhorts us to speak “the truth in love” (Ephesians 4:15). It is also necessary to pray and ask God for the best time to speak the truth. God directed Micaiah at this particular time to speak to these kings. When we decide to speak the truth, let’s make sure that God—not our flesh, our desire to get back at someone, or our need to dump on someone—is the motivation prompted by the Holy Spirit.

Vocabulary-New Words

Truth means the actual state of a matter, an adherence to reality, or an indisputable fact. Truth has several other senses as a noun. The truth refers to the version of reality that we exist in. Putting it more simply, if you are "telling the truth," you are describing the world as it actually is and not making things up or telling lies.

Power

1. a. The ability or capacity to act or do something effectively: Is it in your power to undo this injustice?
   b. often powers A specific capacity, faculty, or aptitude: her powers of concentration.
2. a. The ability or official capacity to exercise control; authority: How long has that party been in power?
   b. The military strength or economic or political influence of a nation or other group: That country projects its power throughout the region.
   c. A country, nation, or other political unit having great influence or control over others: the western powers.