II Kings 10

Review…

- **I Kings 9 – The end of the line of Ahab…**
  - Elisha summoned the prophet Jonah to anoint Jehu as the new King of Israel…
    - Jonah took Jehu into a house – and poured anointing oil over his head…
    - He then told Jehu – the God of Israel had anointed him to lead the nation…
    - And his first command was to completely destroy the house of Ahab!
  - Jehu did not waste any time – he immediately rode for Jezreel to kill King Joram…
    - Joram had no idea why Jehu was coming - he thought his general had news…
    - Perhaps there had been victory - so King Joram rode out to meet Jehu himself…
    - By the time Joram realized Jehu was there to kill him – and he tried to run away…
    - Jehu had drawn his bow – and shot King Joram right through the heart!
  - When Jezebel heard Jehu was in Samaria – she put on her makeup…
    - Jehu told the men with Jezebel to throw her out of the window – and they did…
    - Her body burst on the ground – with blood spattering on the wall and horses!
    - Dogs came and ate her body - fulfilling the words of Elijah - **I Kings 21:23**!

King Jehu of Israel… (*3 things*)

- **1st – Quick to obey… vs. 1-14** Read: II Kings 10:1-12
  - 1st – Ahab had 70 sons / grandsons living in the city of Samaria… vs. 1-5
    - Jehu wrote a letter to the leaders of the city – CHALLENGING them…
      - The city had soldiers and chariots – somewhat capable of defending itself…
      - Pick the best of the 70 sons to be their king – and prepare to be attacked!
    - The city was paralyzed with fear – Jehu had JUST killed two Kings…
      - Jehu had the majority of the army at his disposal – Samaria did not stand a chance…
      - So they sent a message to Jehu – we are your servants – tell us what to do!
      - We see people everyday who refuse to follow Jesus - go to church…
      - Yet I fear we are afraid to challenge them – call them on their sin…
      - Instead we are apologizing – defending ourselves because we do go to church…
      - We need to be putting sinner on the defense – why don't they run to Jesus…
      - Do they really think they are going to be able to escape the judgment of God!
  - 2nd – Jehu sent a second letter to Samaria… vs. 6-10
    - He demanded the heads of all 70 sons / grandsons be brought to him…

- The leaders of the city had raised these sons since they were babies…
- You would think they would have compassion – be willing to defend them…
- But these were Godless men who had served under King Ahab / Joram…
- So they did not hesitate at all to kill – in order to save their own lives!
- People can be so hardened by their sin – they want nothing to do with the Gospel…
- But when you start talking about death and hell – people start listening…
- Because no matter how hard someone is – they are still afraid of dying…
- In fact the greatest fear of all men is the fear of death – it terrifies them...
- They fear it is unknown / and because in their heart they know they will be judged!
- So if someone does not want to hear about God – remind them they will meet Him one day!

▪ Jehu had the sons heads stacked in two piles at the gate of the city…

- It was a VERY dramatic display to show Israel the line of Ahab was gone…
- Jehu went out and spoke to the crowd that had gathered around the piles…
- He admitted he was responsible for betraying and killing his master – King Joram…
- But the people were also guilty – they were the ones who had killed the sons!
- Yet ultimately they were all tools God used to fulfill the prophecy of Elijah…
- **I Kings 21:21** – "The LORD is going to bring disaster to you and sweep you away. He will not let a single one of your sons… survive in Israel!"
- The power of salvation is in the Word of God – it convicts men of their sin…
- It warns men that there is an eternal penalty for sin….
- But it gives them the hope of Grace – the promise of forgiveness through Jesus…
- It is through sharing the Word – God can speak through us to a lost world…
- Making us the tools of the Lord – so people do not loose their heads!

○ 3rd – Jehu killed all of the relatives of Ahab in Jezreel… vs. 11-14

▪ He put to death all of his officials / personal friends / even his priests…

- There was not a single acquaintance of Ahab that survived…
- He then set out for the city of Samaria – to do the same thing there…
- On his way he met some relatives of King Ahaziah of Judah…
- When Jehu found out who they were – he put all 42 of them to death!

▪ Jehu had been so quick to obey the command of the Lord…

- The relatives did not hear about the death of the Kings – sons – so had no chance to escape!
- The question we are left to ask ourselves is are we quick to obey the Lord…
- Not so that the enemies of the Lord cannot escape – but so they can…
- Often we hesitate to share the Gospel – thinking there will be another time…
- The problem is God does not guarantee anyone tomorrow – **II Corinthians 6:2**!
- No one plans to have a heart attack/stoke - or have a car accident...
- No one plans on going to the fiesta – and ending up in a fight that takes their life…
- Let us be quick to obey the command of the Lord – and share the Good News today!

- **2ND – DEVOTED TO POLITICS… VS. 15-28** READ: II KINGS 10:15-28

○ 1st – Jehu met a man on the road – Jehonadab of Recab… vs. 15-16

▪ We know a little bit about this man because of the prophet Jeremiah…

- Jehonadab did not drink any wine / and he lived in a tent – **Jeremiah 35:6-7**
- He did not drink because he wanted to live for God with a clear head…

- **Ephesians 5:18 –** "Do not be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, let the Holy Spirit fill and control you."
- The Bible does not say you cannot drink – but it does say it is sin to be drunk...
- Because when full of alcohol we will do things we will regret (*and not remember*)...
- So many men try and live by the 'power' of alcohol - to get through the day...
- Many drink to forget how terrible life is - but it makes you bitter in the end...
- The moment they sober up - the reality of their poor choice is there to greet them!
- Because the alcohol has no power to change their lives!

▪ And he lived in a tent because he did not want to invest in things of this life…

- This is not our home – we are just passing through – **Hebrews 11:13-16**
- Far too often we get way to attached to things in this life and forget…
- We are not home yet – our home is a place we have yet to see – heaven…
- We need to remember to keep a light touch on things here – just living in tents!

▪ Jehonadab also taught his children to follow his example…

- His children also would not drink – and lived in tents – **Jeremiah 35:8**
- We need to be wise with our time in life - God only gives us so much to work with...
- How do we fill up our day - what do we make a priority...
- If we spend our whole day / every day working - we sacrifice time with family...
- If we focus on being entertained – fiesta - we sacrifice time with the Lord...
- Balance comes when we put Jesus 1st - family 2nd - then everything else...
- Our kids are all we can take with us to heaven - they are our greatest gift!
- **III John 4** – "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth."

▪ Jehu wanted Jehonadab to join him – show him how devoted he was to God!

- As if somehow the presence of this remarkable man made Jehu more holy…
- But in truth it had just the opposite effect – it made Jehonadab look bad…
- If it were not for the words of Jeremiah – you would not know he was a Godly man!
- If you did not know me – and saw me hanging out at the fiesta…
- You might assume that I was not a Christian – living only to have fun!
- If we 'hang out' with the wrong crowd - we are going to be negatively influenced...
- Be very careful where you allow yourself to go - who you are identified with...
- Even if you are not like them – people will assume you are…
- Be very careful whose 'chariot' you choose to get into!

○ 2nd – When Jehu arrived in Samaria – he called a meeting… vs. 17-28

▪ He told the people compared to him - Ahab had only served the god Baal a little…

- Jehu told them he planned to offer a great sacrifice to the pagan god…
- So he called for all the prophets and worshipers of Baal…
- In fact if any of them refused to come – they were to be put to death!

▪ From every corner of Israel – EVERY worshiper of Baal came to Samaria…

- They filled the temple of Baal – and Jehu gave each of them a special robe…
- After Jehu offered an offering – he gave the command to kill every one of them!
- Jehu destroyed all of the idols of Baal – and tore down their temple…
- He made the temple into a public toilet – removing any trace of Baal worship!

- Yet Jehu was not devoted to the Lord – he was devoted to establishing his power…
  - He saw the worshipers of Baal as friends of Ahab – therefore his enemies…
  - If he was truly devoted to the Lord – he would never have offered a offering to Baal!
  - I am often disturbed by politicians when it comes close to election time…
  - You will see them in church on one Sunday / and Iglesia the next…
  - They are not dedicated to the Lord – the are dedicated to getting votes!
  - I fear for people who use 'God' as an opportunity to get ahead…
  - Because if following God stops being popular – they are just as quick to walk away!

- **3RD – ALMOST A GOOD JOB… VS. 29-36** READ: II KINGS 10:29-33
  - 1st – Jehu had done well in quickly destroying the evil family of Ahab… vs. 30-32
    - He had done well in completely removing all of the worship of Baal…
      - As a result God promised to let his children sit on the throne to the 4th generation!
      - But Jehu did not follow the Lord with all his heart…
      - Because he refused to remove the Golden calves of Jeroboam in Bethel and Dan…
      - As a result Israel began to be reduced in size – conquered by other nations!
    - The blessing we receive from the Lord are in proportion to our dedication to him…
      - If we give the Lord our Sunday mornings – but the rest of the week forget about Him…
      - Then we should not be surprised if the Lord blessing us – one morning…
      - And the rest of the week – we are on our own to make things work!
      - **Luke 6:38** – "Give, and it will be given to you… For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you."
      - Look at those who are dedicated to the Lord - see if they are lacking anything…
      - Look at those who are divide their time - and see how much they are lacking!
    - Perhaps you think – I have been dedicating myself to the Lord – but nothing…
      - So often we want to see the good results from our efforts right now!
      - When the blessing do not come - we get tired assuming nothing will every happen...
      - It is easy to get frustrated with the failures in our Christian walk...
      - It can be tempting to want to 'give up' - thinking the blessing will never come!
    - Do not give up - good fruit takes time and patience to grow...
      - **Galatians 6:9** - "Do not get tired of doing what is good. Do not get discouraged and give up, for we will reap a harvest of blessing at the appropriate time..."
      - Rather than looking for the blessings - we just need to keep busy serving Jesus...
      - In God's time the blessing will come – the reward of being dedicated to the Lord!
  - 2nd – The example of Gad / Reuben / and Manasseh… vs. 33-36
    - The 3 tribes of Reuben / Gad / ½ of Manasseh – did not choose to go into the Land...
      - They were comfortable – they were content to stay on the east side - **Numbers 32**...
      - The moment we stop stepping out - stretching our faith - we start to drift…
      - We run the risk of loosing our excitement - falling into an empty routine / religion!
      - We believe in Jesus / we go to church / read our Bible / we are going to heaven...
      - So we come to a place where to feel like we are safe - no need to go any further...
      - Yet part of growing in God - is continuing to step out in faith - doing new things...

- We need to step out again - reaching out further - going beyond our comfort zone...
- It is too easy to get comfortable in the routine – and stop growing in the Lord!
- You might wonder why Jen and I are chose this time to turn over the church…
- Everything is going well – a nice new building – lots of helping hands…
- But as long as we are here – it is too easy NOT to step out in faith…
- We met with a group of Elders last Sunday – about teaching the Mid-week studies…
- They admitted that if we were still here – they would never be willing to teach…
- But since we are going – it pushed them to step out in faith and teach!

▪ Because the 3 tribes were content to settle east of the Jordan River...

- They lacked the natural barrier of the river - making them vulnerable...
- So they were the first of the 12 tribes to be conquered…
- They tried to live on the fence - close to God / but still in the world...
- As a result they fell off the fence on the wrong side - they fell back into the world!
- Often we try to reason with God – how far away from the world do we need to be...
- Can we at least look at the world – how about touch – just a light touch...
- We do not want to be in the world – just really close – is that OK God...
- There is no compromising – there is no middle ground – no fence...
- The danger of living life divided – is that eventually we have to choose...
- It is not worth the danger to play around with the love of this world...
- It is far too easy to fall in love with this world – and miss Jesus!