

10/115/23

Sunday service

# The Absolute Word

1 Kings 13:24-32

Living in this world is not a simple thing. As you live many things happen and many situations arise. When you look back at those times you will be able to see that there was God's precious plan there and you will be in thanksgiving. However, although most people find grace in their past events, it's hard to look at your current situation with such faith. This is understandable. However, even though there were difficulties in the past, in hindsight, it turned out to be an important blessing. The hardships you are facing now will be the same. As it says in Romans 8:28, "All things work together for good." Joseph being sold as a slave by his brothers is not a happy thing. However, there is no story of Joseph falling into a dilemma because of his situation. They say that Joseph had that much spiritual conviction. In the end, he had victory with the covenant and lived a life giving the answer of the age. There is nothing more precious in the world than doing your duty before God and receiving His calling. May you once again hold to the covenant of Christ so that God's desire can be the reason of your life.

## 1. The absolute Word

- 1) Today's bible passage begins from 1 Kings 13:1 and records the story of the death of a man of God. He was a man from Judah and he was called as a priest who relays the Word of God to King Jeroboam, the king of North Israel.
- 2) The man of Judah accurately relayed the Word to King Jeroboam, who gave idol worship, but then faced a tragic death as he fell for the deception of an old prophet from Bethel. He was deceived by the old prophet, so he ate bread and drank water where he was told to eat no bread and drink no water. It is a pitiful story in which he met a lion and faced his death.
- 3) The man fell for the old prophet's deception. It states, "And he said to him, 'I also am a prophet as you are, and an angel spoke to me by the word of the Lord, saying, 'Bring him back with you into your house that he may eat bread and drink water.'" The man followed the old prophet without suspicion, but he was fooled. Therefore, the man of God was killed by a lion.
- 4) You may wonder why such a random story may be recorded in the Bible, but there is a significant message inside of it. You must absolutely receive God's Word. No matter what happens, you must keep the Word of God.
- 5) Jeroboam did not keep the Word. The laws of how to give an offering, the location, the time, and who shall do this was already decided by Moses, but Jeroboam did not keep any of it. The altar of Bethel was made in its own way, the time, and people who served it was chosen based on what he desired. (Verse 33)
- 6) What should naturally come would be curses, but chapter 14 records the curses that came upon Jeroboam.
- 7) God is constantly relaying His message even if it means that he had to sacrifice his precious servant. He must have given a shocking message by sacrificing a prophet who had no sin.
- 8) It is a pitiful death. In God's perspective, He desires to relay the message for you to keep His Word no matter what. Even if a prophet tells you that it is the Word of God, you must keep the Word that you have been given.
- 9) Do not listen to what others say. The Word that God proclaims to you is eternal and the truth. It is unchanging and no one can ever change it. You must keep this in mind. Why must you listen to the words of others and not God's Word? Only the Word of God is the way for you to live. God's Word is life. If not, you have no choice but to perish. Regardless of it all, if it's not the Word of God, you will perish. This is God's message to you.
- 10) The old prophet is not the deceiver, but if only the person of God listened to the Word of God, it would not have happened. If he did not listen to the old prophet's word and followed God's Word to go to Judah, then he would have been greatly complimented by God. He would be complimented for keeping the Word of God.
- 11) He did not keep the Word of God and his life ended pitifully. However, his death was a historical death for the sake of God's work. It is the same for Stephen's death. The twelve Apostles were not all martyred like Stephen.

- 12) His death was prepared by God to relay the message of the age to the people and God planned his death. The old prophet found the body and the lion and donkey stood beside the body. The lion and the donkey did not eat the body. It was the work of God. God sent the angel to close the lion's mouth when Daniel was sent to the lion's den.
- 13) The lion stood next to the body to protect the person of God. It means that it was the death that God had planned. The rumor was spread throughout Israel, and it was an important message to the people. Also, the person received much reward in heaven. This story is applicable in the present age. It must connect to age even more.
- 14) May you keep the Word and receive blessings from God. 2 Timothy 4:1-2 states "I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching." The Word movement that must take place in you is by having the Word of God living and active in you.
- 15) What is the Word of God to you? May you deeply think of this.