

## **Sermon 19: Compromise and Self-Deception lead to Tragedy: 2 Chronicles 18:1-7**

**Text: 2 Chronicles 18:1-7** "Now Jehoshaphat had riches and honour in abundance, and joined affinity with Ahab. And after certain years he went down to Ahab to Samaria. And Ahab killed sheep and oxen for him in abundance, and for the people that he had with him, and persuaded him to go up with him to Ramothgilead. And Ahab king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat king of Judah, Wilt thou go with me to Ramothgilead? And he answered him, I am as thou art, and my people as thy people; and we will be with thee in the war. And Jehoshaphat said unto the king of Israel, Enquire, I pray thee, at the word of the LORD to day. Therefore the king of Israel gathered together of prophets four hundred men, and said unto them, Shall we go to Ramothgilead to battle, or shall I forbear? And they said, Go up; for God will deliver it into the king's hand. But Jehoshaphat said, Is there not here a prophet of the LORD besides, that we might enquire of him? And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, There is yet one man, by whom we may enquire of the LORD: but I hate him; for he never prophesied good unto me, but always evil: the same is Micaiah the son of Imla. And Jehoshaphat said, Let not the king say so..."

**Summary:** Little lapses in judgment can develop into long-term painful consequences.

**Proposition:** We must be committed to a consistent walk in all areas.

**Part 1: A destructive compromise: 18:1-3** "Now Jehoshaphat had riches and honour in abundance, and joined affinity with Ahab...I am as thou art, and my people as thy people; and we will be with thee in the war..."

- **Jehoshaphat was a general strong king from a generally godly lineage: 2 Chronicles 17:3-6** "And the LORD was with Jehoshaphat, because he walked in the first ways of his father David, and sought not unto Baalim; But sought to the LORD God of his father, and walked in his commandments, and not after the doings of Israel. Therefore the LORD stablished the kingdom in his hand...And his heart was lifted up in the ways of the LORD: moreover he took away the high places and groves out of Judah..."
- **His father Asa was faithful most of his life:**
  - **2 Chronicles 14:2-4** "And Asa did that which was good and right in the eyes of the LORD his God: For he took away the altars of the strange gods, and the high places, and brake down the images, and cut down the groves: And commanded Judah to seek the LORD God of their fathers, and to do the law and the commandment..."

- **2 Chronicles 15:17** "But the high places were not taken away out of Israel: nevertheless the heart of Asa was perfect all his days..."
- **2 Chronicles 16:12** "Asa in the thirty and ninth year of his reign was diseased in his feet, until his disease was exceeding great: yet in his disease he sought not to the LORD, but to the physicians..."
- **Jehoshaphat made two great compromises that cost him dearly:**
  - **He made a military alliance with Ahabs: 18:1-3** "Now Jehoshaphat had riches and honour in abundance, and joined affinity with Ahab...I am as thou art, and my people as thy people; and we will be with thee in the war..."
  - **He made a political alliance with Ahab's family through marriage: 21:5-6** "Jehoram was thirty and two years old when he began to reign, and he reigned eight years in Jerusalem. And he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, like as did the house of Ahab: for he had the daughter of Ahab to wife: and he wrought that which was evil in the eyes of the LORD..."

## **Part 2: A halfhearted appeal to truth: 18:4-27**

- **Jehoshaphat's request: 18:4** "And Jehoshaphat said unto the king of Israel, Enquire, I pray thee, at the word of the LORD to day..."
- **Ahab's "spiritual advisors": 18:5** "The king of Israel gathered together of prophets four hundred men, and said unto them, Shall we go to Ramothgilead to battle, or shall I forbear? And they said, Go up; for God will deliver it into the king's hand..."
- **Jehoshaphat's "concern" and request: 18:6** "But Jehoshaphat said, Is there not here a prophet of the LORD besides, that we might enquire of him?"
- **Ahab's reluctance: 18:7** "There is yet one man, by whom we may enquire of the LORD: but I hate him; for he never prophesied good unto me, but always evil: the same is Micaiah the son of Imla. And Jehoshaphat said, Let not the king say so..."
- **Micaiah's prophetic message: 18:12-16** "And the messenger that went to call Micaiah spake to him, saying, Behold, the words of the prophets declare good to the king with one assent; let thy word therefore, I pray thee, be like one of theirs, and speak thou good. And Micaiah said, As the LORD liveth, even what my God saith, that will I speak. And when he was come to the king, the king said unto him, Micaiah, shall we go to Ramothgilead to battle, or shall I forbear? And he said, Go ye up, and prosper, and they shall be delivered into your hand. And the king said to him, How many times shall I adjure thee that thou say nothing but the truth to me in the name of the LORD?"

Then he said, I did see all Israel scattered upon the mountains, as sheep that have no shepherd: and the LORD said, These have no master; let them return therefore every man to his house in peace..."

- **Michaiah's further warning: 18:17-22** "Therefore hear the word of the LORD; I saw the LORD sitting upon his throne, and all the host of heaven standing on his right hand and on his left. And the LORD said, Who shall entice Ahab king of Israel, that he may go up and fall at Ramothgilead? And one spake saying after this manner, and another saying after that manner. Then there came out a spirit, and stood before the LORD, and said, I will entice him. And the LORD said unto him, Wherewith? And he said, I will go out, and be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets. And the LORD said, Thou shalt entice him, and thou shalt also prevail: go out, and do even so..."
- **Ahab's willful disregard for God's word: 18:25-28** "Then the king of Israel said, Take ye Micaiah, and carry him back to Amon the governor of the city, and to Joash the king's son; And say, Thus saith the king, Put this fellow in the prison, and feed him with bread of affliction and with water of affliction, until I return in peace. And Micaiah said, If thou certainly return in peace, then hath not the LORD spoken by me. And he said, Hearken, all ye people. So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat the king of Judah went up to Ramothgilead..."

### **Part 3: A presumptuous scheme: 18:28-32**

- **Ahab disguised himself: 18:29** "And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, I will disguise myself, and will go to the battle; but put thou on thy robes. So the king of Israel disguised himself; and they went to the battle..."
- **Jehoshaphat is nearly killed: 18:30-32** "Now the king of Syria had commanded the captains of the chariots that were with him, saying, Fight ye not with small or great, save only with the king of Israel. And it came to pass, when the captains of the chariots saw Jehoshaphat, that they said, It is the king of Israel. Therefore they compassed about him to fight: but Jehoshaphat cried out, and the LORD helped him; and God moved them to depart from him. For it came to pass, that, when the captains of the chariots perceived that it was not the king of Israel, they turned back again from pursuing him..."

### **Part 4: A tragic end yet appropriate end: 18:33-34**

- **A certain man drew a bow: 18:33** "And a certain man drew a bow at a venture..."
- **The arrow just happened to find its mark: 18:33** "And smote the king of Israel between the joints of the harness..."
- **Ahab is used as a prop as he dies: 18:34** "And the battle increased that day: howbeit the king of Israel stayed himself up in his chariot

against the Syrians until the even: and about the time of the sun going down he died...”

**Application:** Learning from the presumption and compromise of Ahab and Jehoshaphat:

- Little lapses in judgment and little compromises can lead to disastrous outcomes.
- The compromises of parents often lead to greater tragedies in their children.
- When God gives ample warnings, we should heed those gracious warnings.
- We cannot ignore God’s word without serious lasting consequences.
- God’s grace is the only hope for those who compromise.