

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE:	An Unchanging Message to a Changing World
SERMON REFERENCE:	1 Kings 22:1-14
LWF SERMON NUMBER:	#1840

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) 1 Kings 22 tells the story of Jehoshaphat, a good man who tried to do a good thing the wrong way.
 - i) He got in league with an ungodly man named Ahab.
- b) 1 Kings 22:1-14
 - i) The king of Israel at that time was the wicked Ahab.
 - ii) Without praying and seeking the face of God first, Jehoshaphat agreed to join with Ahab in battle.
 - (1) Jehoshaphat made an unholy, political alliance with a wicked man, and he is going to reap the consequences.
 - iii) Like many of us today, it wasn't until after Jehoshaphat and Ahab had already planned, plotted and agreed that they then decided to take it to God in prayer and ask God to rubberstamp their plans.
 - iv) Ahab had 400 court prophets, and they unanimously agreed with King Ahab to go to war against Syria and take Ramoth-Gilead.
 - (1) Jehoshaphat instinctively knew something was wrong and asked for another prophet of whom they could inquire.
 - v) The prophet Micaiah was God's man; and even though Ahab didn't like Micaiah, he sent for him because he needed Jehoshaphat and didn't want to lose that cooperation.
 - vi) The envoy that was sent to pick up Micaiah tried to pressure him to vote with the ministerial alliance.
 - vii) 1 Kings 22:14
 - (1) Micaiah would not bow to the pressure.
 - (2) He stated that whatever the Lord would have him say, that would he speak.
 - (a) It may not be pleasant, but I will say it.
 - (b) It may not be pleasing, but I will say it.
 - (c) It may not be profitable, but I must say it.
 - (d) I may go to jail (which he did), but I will say it.
 - (e) They may kill me, but I will say it.
- c) Today's message will share five things that should be true about us and our churches as we learn about the battle for truth.

2) IT IS BETTER TO BE DIVIDED BY TRUTH THAN TO BE UNITED IN ERROR

- a) Unity is a wonderful thing, and we must do everything we can to keep unity in our church and with our brothers and sisters in Christ.
 - i) Ephesians 4:3
 - ii) Psalm 133:1
- b) We must do everything we can to preserve unity, but it must only be the unity that the Holy Spirit can agree to.
 - i) Amos 3:3
- c) Unity is good, but unification and uniformity that sacrifice truth is not.
 - i) 2 Corinthians 6:14-16

- (1) Jehoshaphat was trying to be unequally yoked with Ahab.
 - (a) Ahab was an unbeliever, and Jehoshaphat was a believer.
 - (2) The word “concord” means “agreement.”
 - (3) Belial was the god of worthlessness.
 - d) Jesus Christ is the great unifier of all who believe in Him, but He is also the great divider.
 - i) The Lord Jesus and his teachings are the most divisive force this world has ever known.
 - ii) The Lord Jesus has caused more division than any other force since creation.
 - iii) Matthew 10:34-36
 - iv) Those who value unity above truth have missed the Spirit of Jesus.
 - e) Our unity is in Christ and Christ alone.
 - i) This does not encourage God’s people and good people to divide over incidentals.
 - ii) But when the great, eternal values of the Word of God are jettisoned and crucified upon the altar of conformity and cooperation, it is a sin against Almighty God.
- 3) IT IS BETTER TO SPEAK THE TRUTH THAT HURTS AND THEN HEALS THAN TO TELL A LIE THAT COMFORTS AND THEN KILLS
- a) 1 Kings 22:6
 - i) These 400 men told Ahab and Jehoshaphat a lie.
 - (1) It was a lie that Ahab loved to hear.
 - ii) Ahab loved these pandering preachers because they told him what he wanted to hear rather than what he needed to hear.
 - (1) As a result, Ahab encountered great calamity.
 - b) Preachers need to stop trying to win popularity contests.
 - c) 1 Kings 22:8
 - i) Ahab saw Micaiah, who was his friend, as his enemy.
 - d) When former pastor Dr. Robert G. Lee preached on Hell, he said, “Some will call preaching about Hell cruel. I’d rather be called cruel for being kind than to be called kind for being cruel.”
 - e) Rough truth is better than polished falsehood.
 - i) Ecclesiastes 7:5
 - (1) There are some in our churches today who are hearing the song of fools.
 - (a) For the sake of church growth, many are saying that we shouldn’t say anything that might offend.
 - (i) Don’t preach on Hell or judgment.
 - (ii) Don’t preach on anything that might cause this generation to be turned away.
 - 1. Just talk to them in glittering generalities.
 - ii) People need a Savior.

- (1) They need to know that they're lost and that they're sinners under the wrath of a righteous and holy God.
 - f) Micaiah refused to be bought, and he refused to be intimidated.
 - i) 1 Kings 22:14
 - ii) Micaiah knew that it's better to be divided by truth than united in error and that it's better to tell the truth that hurts and then heals than to tell a lie that comforts and then kills.
 - g) Proverbs 27:5-6
- 4) IT IS BETTER TO BE HATED FOR TELLING THE TRUTH THAN TO BE LOVED FOR TELLING A LIE
- a) 1 Kings 22:8
 - i) Ahab hated Micaiah.
 - b) Not every man of God is going to be loved.
 - i) The Apostle Paul told the Galatians that they were off in doctrinal error.
 - (1) Galatians 4:16
 - (a) A person is not our enemy because he or she tells us the truth, but we sometimes think they are.
 - c) Micaiah told the truth, and they put him in prison.
 - i) 1 Kings 22:26-27
 - d) Jesus Christ told the truth, and they crucified Him.
 - e) We're not called to be loved by everybody else, but to bear the reproach of the Lord Jesus.
 - f) When we study the Bible, it's impossible to find anyone who stood for truth who was loved by everyone.
 - i) Able was killed by his brother.
 - ii) Noah was so hated that he could not get seven converts in 120 years.
 - iii) Joseph was sold into slavery.
 - iv) Moses was hated and ridiculed by his family.
 - v) Elijah was chased.
 - vi) Elisha was called a baldhead.
 - vii) Isaiah preached to deaf ears.
 - viii) Jeremiah was a weeping prophet because of the resistance and defiance of those to whom he preached.
 - ix) Daniel was put in the lions' den.
 - x) The Hebrew children were thrown into the fiery furnace.
 - xi) David was chased and hunted by Saul.
 - xii) John the Baptist was beheaded.
 - xiii) Peter was crucified upside down.
 - xiv) Stephen was stoned.
 - xv) Paul was left for dead outside of Lystra.
 - xvi) John the apostle was exiled on Patmos.
 - xvii) James was martyred.
 - xviii) The Lord Jesus was crucified.

- 5) IT IS BETTER TO STAND ALONE WITH THE TRUTH THAN TO BE WRONG WITH A MULTITUDE
- a) 1 Kings 22:13-14
 - i) Micaiah did not care what 400 other preachers said; he was going to say what God said.
 - ii) It was 400 to one.
 - b) The majority is almost always wrong.
 - i) The majority in most of our churches is almost always wrong.
 - (1) The majority don't attend prayer meetings.
 - (2) The majority don't attend Sunday night worship.
 - c) Many people today want a spirit of uniformity, and the spirit of antichrist is working to build a world church in a world state.
 - i) There are those who want to homogenize society and obliterate conviction.
 - (1) The religion of America today is "get-alongism."
 - ii) We're deemed almost unamerican if we don't put our arms around everybody else's shoulder and say that their religion is just as good as ours.
 - iii) To say that Jesus Christ is the only way and that the Bible is the Word of God brands us as bigots, narrow, uncooperative and fundamentalists.
 - d) Men of God have always stood alone.
 - i) Noah had to stand alone when he preached.
 - ii) Elijah stood alone on Mount Carmel against 450 prophets of Baal.
 - iii) Amos stood alone in the courtroom at Bethel.
 - iv) True prophets must stand alone.
 - e) They tried to soften up Micaiah.
 - i) 1 Kings 22:13
 - f) We must never divide over incidentals; but we must stand for conviction, even if we have to stand alone.
 - g) Sometimes church denominations have to stand alone.
 - i) The standard is the Word of God and not a comparison between denominations.
 - ii) It is not a matter of right and left, but a matter of right and wrong.
 - iii) It is not what your particular persuasion is; it is what does the Word of God say.
 - iv) We need to come to a fixed standard; not of conservative versus liberal, but of the Word of God versus everything else.
 - h) Sometimes churches have to stand alone.
 - i) If denominations won't stand alone, then churches have to stand alone.
 - i) Families sometimes have to stand alone.
 - i) If you're in a church that does not take a stand for the Word of God, then you should get your family in another church.
 - j) Individuals sometimes have to stand alone.

- i) You may be the only one in your family who stands up for the truth.
 - ii) Again, don't divide over incidentals.
 - (1) Romans 12:18
- 6) IT IS BETTER TO ULTIMATELY SUCCEED WITH THE TRUTH THAN TO TEMPORARILY SUCCEED WITH A LIE
- a) 1 Kings 22:34
 - i) It was a tragic battle for Ahab.
 - (1) He would not listen to the man of God and the Word of God.
 - b) The preacher was thrown into prison.
 - i) But give God time, for God's arrow found Ahab, and God's crown has found Micaiah.
- 7) CONCLUSION
- a) We need to be people of God.
 - b) The thing that is desperately needed in today's world is the truth.
 - i) The Bible contains the precepts of truth.
 - ii) Jesus is the person of truth.
 - iii) The Holy Spirit is the power of truth.
 - c) Do you know the Lord Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
 - d) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16