

Two Minds – Not Better Than One

Text : **I Kings 18: 17-40, 21**

S#1.

A. Though Solomon lived thousands of years ago, his wisdom still rings true.

1. **Prov. 1: 9** – That which has been is that which will be, And that which has been **S#2.**
done is that which will be done. So there is nothing new under the sun.

2. People today get involved in the same things they did in Solomon's time.

- a. Lust of the flesh
- b. Lust of the eye
- c. The pride of life

3. These may be expressed via different vehicle, but the motivation is the same.

S#3.

B. Because this principle is true, God was able to give us eternal lessons in His book.

1. **Rom. 15: 4** – For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction,
so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures
we might have hope.

2. The stories of God's dealings with His people all have lessons for us, some many.

C. God has shown great patience in dealing with man's repetitive sins.

1. Israel continually murmured when faced with adversity.

- a. At fear of the Egyptian army.
- b. Not enough water.
- c. No source of food ... the food was better in Egypt.

2. They made a covenant to worship only God, but repeatedly broke it.

a. Their leaders (*including Aaron*) saw God at the foot of the mountain. **Exod 24:10**

b. Six weeks later they were sacrificing offerings to an idol. **Exod. 32: 4-6** **S#4.**

Exod. 32: 4 – He took this from their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool
and made it into a molten calf; and they said, "This is your god,
O Israel, who brought you up from the land of Egypt."

c. While being sustains by the manna of God, they worshipped an idol.

"We're not worshipping the idol, we're worshipping God through the idol."

3. They agreed .. God rescued them from slavery and in turn they were to serve Him.

- a. Like a husband, God would protect them and they would be faithful to Him.
- b. Like a Father, God would provide for them and they would obey him as a Father.
- c. God was very patient, but Israel persisted in disobedience and unfaithfulness.

There are many lessons we can learn from God's people of old.

I. God's people stayed faithful to Him only when they had a strong godly leader. S#5.

A. Moses was a strong and godly leader.

1. Moses followed God faithfully and demanded that the people do likewise.
2. When the people rebelled against God or Moses, the rebellion was put down.
 - a. Moses' sister, Miriam ... Num 12
 - b. Korah's rebellion ... Num 16
3. When the people sinned against God, Moses disciplined them.

B. Joshua followed the example of Moses and the commands of the lord. S#6.

1. **Joshua 24: 31** – **Israel served the Lord all the days of Joshua and all the days of the elders who survived Joshua, and had known all the deeds of the Lord which He had done for Israel.**
2. His forceful leadership kept Israel focused on the task at hand ... **take the land.**

C. These same qualities are essential in the church today. S#7.

1. The members must see that their leaders seek and follow the word of God.
 - a. They must be taught the word. (*bottle fed until they can feed themselves*)
 - b. They must be disciplined when they stray from it.
2. Leaders provide example as well as verbal instructions.
 - a. If God and His church is not the leader's highest value in life, the members won't value God either.
 - b. Whatever conduct is desired must first be demonstrated.
3. As Joshua kept Israel on mission, so leaders must keep the church on mission ... *That mission is to build the kingdom of God.*

D. Strong leaders take years to develop.

1. God took 80 years to prepare Moses to leader Israel.
2. Joshua began his training in Exodus 17 and trained for 40 years.
3. We have a direct command :

II Tim. 2: 2 – **The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.**
3. Even deacons must **"first be tested"** (**I Tim. 3:10**)

II. Israel fell when they mingled with outsiders.**S#8.****A. Before entering the land, the people of Israel were warned.****S#9.**

Exod. 34: 12-16 Watch yourself that you make no covenant with the inhabitants of the land into which you are going, or it will become a snare in your midst.¹³ “But *rather*, you are to tear down their altars and smash^{#10.} their *sacred* pillars and cut down their Asherim¹⁴ —for you shall not worship any other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God—¹⁵ otherwise you might make a covenant with the ^{#11} inhabitants of the land and they would play the harlot with their gods and sacrifice to their gods, and someone might invite you to eat of his sacrifice,¹⁶ and you might take some of his daughters for **S#12.** your sons, and his daughters might play the harlot with their gods and cause your sons *also* to play the harlot with their gods.

B. Israel did not obey the command of the Lord.**S#13.**

1. **Judges 2: 1-4** Now the angel of the LORD came up from Gilgal to Bochim. And he said, “I brought you up out of Egypt and led you into the land which I have sworn to your fathers; and I said, ‘I will never break My covenant with you, ² and as for you, you shall make no covenant with the **S#14.** inhabitants of this land; you shall tear down their altars.’ But you have not obeyed Me; what is this you have done? ³ Therefore I also said, ‘I will not drive them out before you; but they will become as *thorns*^{#15.} in your sides and their gods will be a snare to you.’ ” ⁴ When the angel of the LORD spoke these words to all the sons of Israel, the people lifted up their voices and wept.

2. Many of the Canaanites were left in the land, some a forced labor.

- a. Benjamin ... **Judges 1: 21**
- b. Manasseh ... **27-28** (*forced labor*)
- c. Ephraim ... **29**
- d. Zebulum ... **30** ;
- e. Asher ... **31** ;
- f. Naphtali ... **33**

C. The consequence of their disobedience was apostasy. (*ultimately rejected*)**S#16.**

1. **Judges 2: 11-12** Then the sons of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD and served the Baals, ¹² and they forsook the LORD, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed^{#17.} other gods from *among* the gods of the peoples who were around them, and bowed themselves down to them; thus they provoked the LORD to anger.

2. Their apostasy led to their downfall.

S#18.

Judges 2: 13-15

So they forsook the LORD and served Baal and the Ashtaroth.

¹⁴ The anger of the LORD burned against Israel, and He gave them into the hands of plunderers who plundered them; and He sold them into the hands of their enemies around *them*, so that ^{S#19.} they could no longer stand before their enemies. ¹⁵ Wherever they went, the hand of the LORD was against them for evil, as the LORD had spoken and as the LORD had sworn to them, so that they were severely distressed.

3. This was a repeating pattern all through the history of Israel. (*Illustrated by judges*)

D. Christians are given the very same admonition :

S#20.

1. **II Cor. 6: 14-18**

Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? ¹⁵ Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or ^{S#21.} what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? ¹⁶ Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I will dwell in them ^{#22} and walk among them; And I will be their God, and they shall be My people. ¹⁷ Therefore, come out from their midst and be separate," says the Lord. "And do not touch what is unclean; And I will welcome you. ¹⁸ "And I will be a father to you, And you ^{S#23.} shall be sons and daughters to Me," Says the Lord Almighty.

2. Christians are send into the world (**John 17: 18**) but we must not become of it.

- a. Constant exposure pollutes.

- b. *A lady who never smoked got lung cancer from second hand smoke in the office.*

3. Few Christians have their faith destroyed by one significant event.

S#24.

Heb. 2: 1 – For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it.

4. Satan doesn't always use a full on frontal attack.

S#25.

Heb. 3: 12-13

Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God. ¹³ But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

III. God is very patient, but there is a limit to His patience.

S#26.

A. Each time Israel repented, God sent them someone to rescue them.

1. Each time they were rescued, they repented of their repentance.

2. They never forgot God completely, but they were like an adulterous wife.
 - a. In addition to their husband, they wanted the attention of lovers.
 - b. They worshipped God, **plus** their idols of Ba'al Hadad, Molech, and Asherah.
3. Every day they prayed the Shema from Deut. 6, but didn't practice what they prayed.
Deut. 6: 4-5 Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one! ⁵ You shall **S#27.**
 love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul
 and with all your might.

B. God sent some of the most powerful prophets to the northern kingdom.

1. In our text ... Elijah was possibly the most powerful prophet.
2. Elijah was replaced by Elisha.
3. Jonah was a prophet to Israel.
4. Amos and Hosea were both northern prophets.

C. In the end God purged the land of the northern 10 tribes.

1. God was patient with them for 200 years after they separate from His temple.
2. They went into Assyrian captivity and were absorbed into the population there.
3. The remnant that remained allowed themselves to be absorbed by the colonists.
4. When they sought to return, they were refused. **S#28.**
Ezra 4: 2-3 They approached Zerubbabel and the heads of fathers' households, and said to them, "Let us build with you, for we, like you, seek your God; and we have been sacrificing to Him since the days of Esarhaddon king of Assyria, who brought us up here." ³ But Zerubbabel and Jeshua **S#29.**
 and the rest of the heads of fathers' households of Israel said to them, "You have nothing in common with us in building a house to our God; but we ourselves will together build to the Lord God of Israel, ...

IV. Some practical applications :

S#30.

A. As Elijah demonstrated in our text, there is only one God.

1. God will not accept the worship of those who are not loyal to Him alone.
I Kings 18: 21 – Elijah came near to all the people and said, "How long will you hesitate between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him." But the people did not answer him a word.
2. God will be only accept worship from those who seek an exclusive relationship. **#31.**
Matt. 4: 10 – Then Jesus said to him, "Go, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.' "

B. Like Israel, Christians must live in direct contrast with today's culture. S#32.

1. This world culture advocates acceptance of everyone except Christians. S#33.

a. Everyone has the right to do his own thing as long as they don't force it on you.

b. Who are you to judge ? *If there is a loving God, He would not condemn.*

2. God commands for the Christian to expose evil as being evil. S#34.

a. **Eph. 5: 11-14** Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them; ¹² for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret. ¹³ But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that ^{#35.} becomes visible is light. ¹⁴ For this reason it says, "Awake, sleeper, And arise from the dead, And Christ will shine on you."

b. **Eph. 5: 8** – Now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light (*Lifestyle*)

C. You MUST decide which world you want to be in. S#36.

1. God demands a decision. "How long will you be of two minds ?"

2. The Christian cannot seek a relationship with both worlds.

a. We cannot love the world. S#37.

I John 2: 15 – Do not love the world nor the things in the world.
If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

b. We cannot even be friends with this world. S#38.

James 4: 4 – You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

3. This doesn't imply hostility toward other people. but that (**Col. 4: 5-6**)

a. Your citizenship and loyalty must be obvious.

b. Your opposition to evil must be beyond question.

* c. *You need God and the support of His people ... choose them.*

D. The Christian must oppose false religion and erroneous practices. S#39.

1. The world says, don't make an issue; just go along to get along.

2. ACCEPTANCE OF ERROR DOES NOT MAKE IT TRUTH or acceptable to God. #40.

3. To leave a loved one in error is to sentence them to eternal separation from God.

CONCLUSION :

We're coming up on the time of year when Christians more frequently surrender. S#41. 42

Satan will be "*the other woman*" but God won't. Stay single-minded. #43 -#44 -#45

Lesson Text :**I Kings 18: 17-40, 21**

¹⁷ When Ahab saw Elijah, Ahab said to him, “Is this you, you troubler of Israel?” ¹⁸ He said, “I have not troubled Israel, but you and your father’s house *have*, because you have forsaken the commandments of the LORD and you have followed the Baals. ¹⁹ Now then send *and* gather to me all Israel at Mount Carmel, *together* with 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of the Asherah, who eat at Jezebel’s table.”

²⁰ So Ahab sent *a message* among all the sons of Israel and brought the prophets together at Mount Carmel. ²¹ Elijah came near to all the people and said, “How long *will* you *hesitate* between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him.” But the people did not answer him a word. ²² Then Elijah said to the people, “I alone am left a prophet of the LORD, but Baal’s prophets are 450 men. ²³ Now let them give us two oxen; and let them choose one ox for themselves and cut it up, and place it on the wood, but put no fire *under it*; and I will prepare the other ox and lay it on the wood, and I will not put a fire *under it*. ²⁴ Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the LORD, and the God who answers by fire, He is God.” And all the people said, “[U]That is a good idea.”

²⁵ So Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, “Choose one ox for yourselves and prepare it first for you are many, and call on the name of your god, but put no fire *under it*.”

²⁶ Then they took the ox which [k]was given them and they prepared it and called on the name of Baal from morning until noon saying, “O Baal, answer us.” But there was no voice and no one answered. And they [l]leaped about the altar which [m]they made. ²⁷ It came about at noon, that Elijah mocked them and said, “Call out with a loud voice, for he is a god; either he is occupied or gone aside, or is on a journey, or perhaps he is asleep and needs to be awakened.” ²⁸ So they cried with a loud voice and cut themselves according to their custom with swords and lances until the blood gushed out on them. ²⁹ When midday was past, they [n]raved until the time of the offering of the *evening* sacrifice; but there was no voice, no one answered, and no [o]one paid attention.

³⁰ Then Elijah said to all the people, “Come near to me.” So all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD which had been torn down. ³¹ Elijah took twelve stones according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD had come, saying, “Israel shall be your name.” ³² So with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD, and he made a trench around the altar, large enough to hold two [p]measures of seed. ³³ Then he arranged the wood and cut the ox in pieces and laid *it* on the wood. ³⁴ And he said, “Fill four pitchers with water and pour *it* on the burnt offering and on the wood.” And he said, “Do it a second time,” and they

did it a second time. And he said, “Do it a third time,” and they did it a third time. ³⁵ The water flowed around the altar and he also filled the trench with water.

³⁶ At the time of the offering of the *evening* sacrifice, Elijah the prophet came near and said, “O LORD, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, today let it be known that You are God in Israel and that I am Your servant and I have done all these things at Your word.

³⁷ Answer me, O LORD, answer me, that this people may know that You, O LORD, are God, and *that* You have turned their heart back again.” ³⁸ Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. ³⁹ When all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, “The LORD, He is God; the LORD, He is God.” ⁴⁰ Then Elijah said to them, “Seize the prophets of Baal; do not let one of them escape.” So they seized them; and Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon, and slew them there.

²¹ Elijah came near to all the people and said, “How long *will* you [hesitate](#) between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him.” But the people did not answer him a word.