

One Against Four Hundred

“Silence in the face of evil is itself evil: God will not hold us guiltless. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act.”

2 Tim.4:2-4, the itch

*Itching ears*: to have one's ears tickled by what he hears; to desire to hear what one wants to hear – L-N

# 1 K.22

Ahab is not upset over land he took from Naboth

3-6: 400 yes men, yet not enough?

7-8: one prophet left; Ahab prefers majority rule

Jews think Micaiah is the prophet of 20:35-43

9: bring Micaiah quickly [one true prophet shunned]

13-14: like Elijah: alone; brave — a “NO” man...

15-16: Ahab wants truth, not sarcasm??

17-18: Can't handle truth

19-28: a story (for itching ears). 25: you will see

29-30: Ahab thought he could outsmart God. 31...34

# I. Why Should Micaiah Remain Silent?

## Worldly Answers

- Easier to follow the majority
- Safer to agree with king (8). 1 K.21, Naboth
- Jehoshaphat sits by Ahab ... lends influence
- Pleasant to speak good things...
- Agreeing with everyone reduces stress
- Negative message means suffering / death?

I. Why Should Micaiah Remain Silent?

II. What Does Micaiah Say?

## Micaiah . . .

- Sarcasm, 15. 1 K.18:27
- Mockery, scorn, 6, 12, 15
- Prophecies death of king, 17
- Prophecies defeat of Israel, 17
- Charges false prophets with lying and deceit, 19-23

I. Why Should Micaiah Remain Silent?

II. What Does Micaiah Say?

III. Why Does Micaiah  
Speak?



## Micaiah speaks...

- Truth. Jn.8
- Persecution is better than perdition.  
Mt.5:10...
- Choice: <sup>1</sup>please king with a lie, or <sup>2</sup>please God with truth. Mt.10:28; 16:26
  - Micaiah drew line of resistance . . . .
  - Micaiah held line of revelation . . . .
  - Micaiah trusted line of reliance . . . .

I. Why Should Micaiah Remain Silent?

II. What Does Micaiah Say?

III. Why Does Micaiah Speak?

IV. Applications

# 1. Compromise always threatens God's people

## Many forms

- Politically correct
- Religiously correct
- Socially correct
  - Adultery
  - Homosexuality
  - Alternative lifestyle
  - Drinking

## 2. Conviction trumps fear

2 Cor.4:13

Micaiah: one man against 401

- It's not how he said it; it's what he said...
- It's not messenger, but message... Mk.6
- It's not who is in the audience... 1 K.22. Mk.6.  
Ac.23

### 3. Certainty of truth

1 K.22:34

- Random arrow hits Ahab?
- Baptism...?
- Creation...?
- Hell...?

## 4. Consequences of truth

2 Th.2:10-12

- Ahab never returned home
- Ahab's majority was wrong
- One prophet of God was right

## 5. Courage of truth

Mk.15:43

Ac.28:15

- Plato: courage is 'knowing what not to fear'

## 5. Courage of truth

“Men have preached a lie, knowing it’s a lie if, in preaching it, they have put gold in their pockets. ...they achieved power and authority... But men do not preach a lie, knowing it’s a lie if, every time they preach it, they are courting imprisonment, persecution, poverty, and death. ...or that they will be beheaded as was Paul, or that they will be stoned to death as was Stephen. ...And yet that is precisely the penalty the early Christians paid for preaching the resurrection”