

Sermon Title: Can You Handle the Truth?

Passage: 1 Kings 22:1-40

Main Idea: Value truth above all else

Setting: Ahab is king of the Northern tribes of Israel. Jehoshaphat is king of the Southern tribes of Israel. In a rare moment of collaboration, Northern and Southern Israel unite in order to take back Ramoth-gilead, a city that has been conquered by Syria. However, in forming their battle plan, these two kings make the critical mistake of failing to value the Word of the Lord.

I. Listen to the Truth (22:1-12)

- A. Big Plans (1-4)
- B. Hurt Feelings (5-9)
- C. Bad Advice (10-12)

II. Speak the Truth (22:13-28)

- A. A Bold Prophet (13-14)
- B. The Harsh Truth (15-23)
- C. The Cost of Honesty (24-28)

III. Value the Truth (22:29-40)

- A. The Plan Made (29-30)
- B. The Prophecy Fulfilled (31-36)
- C. The Cost of Pride (37-40)

Conclusion: The truth is the truth regardless of circumstances. It is far more advantageous, and wise, to fit your plans and expectations to match what is true, rather than to try to change the truth to fit your expectations and desires. The truth does not change, because the Source of Truth does not change. Those who love the Lord value truth.

Application Questions:

- Are you someone who values truth?
 - How do you react to those who lovingly speak truth to you?
 - Are you willing to lovingly, yet boldly, speak truth to others, even when it is hard to hear?
- We live in a world where “truth” is defined by emotions/feelings. What authority do you have to speak contrary to how another person may feel?
 - What if the truth is hard to hear?
 - How can I speak the truth in love?
- What do you do in order to put yourself in a position to continually hear and apply the truth?

Children’s Application Questions:

- How do we know that the Bible is true?
- Because the Bible is true, how should I treat it?
- What if I don’t like what the Bible says?

Similar Passages of Scripture to Explore:

- John 1:14; 14:6; 14:16-17; 16:13; 17:17
- Psalm 25:5; 86:11; 119:160
- Proverbs 30:5
- 1 Corinthians 13:4-6
- 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- Philippians 4:8
- Ephesians 4:25
- Titus 1:2; Hebrews 6:18; Numbers 23:19

Songs and Hymns to Meditate on:

- Thy Word Have I Hid in My Heart
- God’s Word Shall Stand Forever
- Every Promise
- As We Read Your Holy Word
- May the Mind of Christ, My Savior
- More and More Like You