

Faith During Faithless Times

A Study of II Kings

Part II—God’s Wrecking Ball

Pastor Carl Toti

April 17-18, 2021

BIG IDEA OF THE MESSAGE: When God wants something done, He doesn’t assemble a committee. He calls a man or a woman.

APPLICATION POINT: Zeal is no substitute for obedience, but zeal should accompany our obedience.

2 Kings 9:1-13 (NLT)

1 Meanwhile, Elisha the prophet had summoned a member of the group of prophets. “Get ready to travel,” he told him, “and take this flask of olive oil with you. Go to Ramoth-gilead, 2 and find Jehu son of Jehoshaphat, son of Nimshi. Call him into a private room away from his friends, 3 and pour the oil over his head. Say to him, ‘This is what the LORD says: I anoint you to be the king over Israel.’ Then open the door and run for your life!” 4 So the young prophet did as he was told and went to Ramoth-gilead. 5 When he arrived there, he found Jehu sitting around with the other army officers. “I have a message for you, Commander,” he said. “For which one of us?” Jehu asked. “For you, Commander,” he replied. 6 So Jehu left the others and went into the house. Then the young prophet poured the oil over Jehu’s head and said, “This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: I anoint you king over the LORD’s people, Israel. 7 You are to destroy the family of Ahab, your master. In this way, I will avenge the murder of my prophets and all the LORD’s servants who were killed by Jezebel. 8 The entire family of Ahab must be wiped out. I will destroy every one of his male descendants, slave and free alike, anywhere in Israel. 9 I will destroy the family of Ahab as I destroyed the families of Jeroboam son of Nebat and of Baasha son of Ahijah. 10 Dogs will eat Ahab’s wife Jezebel at the plot of land in Jezreel, and no one will bury her.” Then the young prophet opened the door and ran. 11 Jehu went back to his fellow officers, and one of them asked him, “What did that madman want? Is everything all right?” “You know how a man like that babbles on,” Jehu replied. 12 “You’re hiding something,” they said. “Tell us.” So Jehu told them, “He said to me, ‘This is what the LORD says: I have anointed you to be king over Israel.’” 13 Then they quickly spread out their cloaks on the bare steps and blew the ram’s horn, shouting, “Jehu is king!”

BIG IDEA: When God wants something done, He doesn't assemble a committee. He calls a man or a woman.

BIG IDEA: Sometimes we can get super comfortable in our current life when God upends it with a divine call.

THREE TAKEAWAYS

1. MAKE _____

2 Kings 9:20 (NLT)

20 The watchman exclaimed, "The messenger has met them, but he isn't returning either! It must be Jehu son of Nimshi, for he's driving like a madman."

"Swift and resolute action leads to success; self-doubt is a prelude to disaster."

—The proverb goes back to 'Cato' by English essayist and poet Joseph Addison

BIG IDEA: We are not to live a hurried life, but in life, you better hustle.

CHRISTIAN LIFE COMPARED TO A RACE

1 Corinthians 9:25-26 (NLT)

25 All athletes are disciplined in their training. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize. 26 So I run with purpose in every step. I am not just shadowboxing.

Luke 19:5 (NKJV)

5 And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house."

Psalms 119:32 (ESV)

32 I will run in the way of your commandments when you enlarge my heart!

"Everything comes to him who hustles while he waits."

—Thomas A. Edison

"You can't have a million dollar dream with a minimum-wage work ethic."

—Stephen C. Hogan

2. FERVENT IN _____

2 Kings 10:16 (NIV)

16 Jehu said, "Come with me and see my zeal for the LORD." Then he had him ride along in his chariot.

Zeal is the same word as fervor. It is forcefulness in its original meaning. It is the bubbling up of the boiling spirit: the opposite of an impassive, cold-hearted indifference.

Zeal Isn't Enough

Proverbs 19:2 (BSB)

Even zeal is no good without knowledge, and he who hurries his footsteps misses the mark.

BIG IDEA: Zeal is no substitute for obedience, but zeal should accompany our obedience.

Fervent, but Not a Fanatic

Fanaticism is dangerous, whether in politics or religion.

Galatians 1:13 (Phillips NT)

13 For you have heard of my past career in the Jewish religion, how I persecuted the Church of God with fanatical zeal and, in fact, did my best to destroy it.

3. MISSION _____

2 Kings 10:30-31 (NIV)

30 The LORD said to Jehu, "Because you have done well in accomplishing what is right in my eyes and have done to the house of Ahab all I had in mind to do, your descendants will sit on the throne of Israel to the fourth generation." 31 Yet Jehu was not careful to keep the law of the LORD, the God of Israel, with all his heart. He did not turn away from the sins of Jeroboam, which he had caused Israel to commit.

ANSWERS:

1. HASTE
2. SPIRIT
3. ACCOMPLISHED