



## Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

### Prophet, what will you say? June 13-15, 2020

#### 1 Kings 22:10-28

10 Dressed in their royal robes, the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat king of Judah were sitting on their thrones at the threshing floor by the entrance of the gate of Samaria, with all the prophets prophesying before them. 11 Now Zedekiah son of Kenaanah had made iron horns and he declared, "This is what the Lord says: 'With these you will gore the Arameans until they are destroyed.'" 12 All the other prophets were prophesying the same thing. "Attack Ramoth Gilead and be victorious," they said, "for the Lord will give it into the king's hand." 13 The messenger who had gone to summon Micaiah said to him, "Look, the other prophets without exception are predicting success for the king. Let your word agree with theirs, and speak favorably." 14 But Micaiah said, "As surely as the Lord lives, I can tell him only what the Lord tells me." 15 When he arrived, the king asked him, "Micaiah, shall we go to war against Ramoth Gilead, or not?" "Attack and be victorious," he answered, "for the Lord will give it into the king's hand." 16 The king said to him, "How many times must I make you swear to tell me nothing but the truth in the name of the Lord?" 17 Then Micaiah answered, "I saw all Israel scattered on the hills like sheep without a shepherd, and the Lord said, 'These people have no master. Let each one go home in peace.'" 18 The king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "Didn't I tell you that he never prophesies anything good about me, but only bad?" 19 Micaiah continued, "Therefore hear the word of the Lord: I saw the Lord sitting on his throne with all the multitudes of heaven standing around him on his right and on his left. 20 And the Lord said, 'Who will entice Ahab into attacking Ramoth Gilead and going to his death there?' "One suggested this, and another that. 21 Finally, a spirit came forward, stood before the Lord and said, 'I will entice him.' 22 "'By what means?' the Lord asked. "'I will go out and be a deceiving spirit in the mouths of all his prophets,' he said. "'You will succeed in enticing him,' said the Lord. 'Go and do it.' 23 "So now the Lord has put a deceiving spirit in the mouths of all these prophets of yours. The Lord has decreed disaster for you." 24 Then Zedekiah son of Kenaanah went up and slapped Micaiah in the face. "Which way did the spirit from the Lord go when he went from me to speak to you?" he asked. 25 Micaiah replied, "You will find out on the day you go to hide in an inner room." 26 The king of Israel then ordered, "Take Micaiah and send him back to Amon the ruler of the city and to Joash the king's son 27 and say, 'This is what the king says: Put this fellow in

prison and give him nothing but bread and water until I return safely.'" 28 Micaiah declared, "If you ever return safely, the Lord has not spoken through me." Then he added, "Mark my words, all you people!"

1. As background, read 1 Kings 22 & 23.
2. When might a person feel pressured to say what someone else expected him/her to say? (Give a real life example?) **In a protest march; when surrounded by unbelievers, when confronted by skeptics; when expected to use "politically correct" speech**
3. If the 400 prophets (1 Kings 22:6) were not telling the truth, why did they say what they did (22:12)? **To be popular; to gain influence; victims of "group think"; influenced by Satan; they wanted to believe it (power of positive thinking)**
4. In what way(s) are we tempted to do what those prophets did? **We are tempted to "bend the truth" to make it palatable; we want to be liked, accepted, popular, influential; we love/trust our human reason more than God's revelations.**
5. Why did Ahab "hate" Micaiah (v. 8)? **The Lord's prophet didn't tell Ahab what he wanted to hear. He pointed out this sins; God's will vs. Ahab's will.**
6. Micaiah felt "pressure" from two directions. Explain. **His peers/messenger/crowd pressured him to conform. His faith made him accountable to God. The Spirit moved him to speak the truth.**
7. Give an example of how religious leaders today tell people what they want to hear. **Prosperity Gospel (God wants you to be rich); Social Gospel (The church's mission is to right social inequities). People are basically good; there is no hell, good works save.**
8. How was Micaiah shown to be a true prophet of the LORD? (Cf. Dt. 18:20-22; 1 Kings 23) **His prophecy came true.**
9. Agree/disagree: Unbelievers don't want to hear what the Bible says. **Yes, my sinful nature doesn't want my sins exposed and I naturally object to the idea of God freely giving salvation to those who don't deserve it. However, deep down every sinner longs to know that he/she is right with God. We are all created with a longing for paradise. Only the gospel can fulfill that desire.**
- 10 What seemingly unpopular truth(s) do you need to share with people in our world today? **Law, applied to self and others. Gospel, applied to self and others.**