

# HOW TO BE A MAN (OR WOMAN) OF GOD

**TEXT:** 1 Kings 13

1 Kings 13:1–10 And behold, a man of God went from Judah to Bethel by the word of the Lord, and Jeroboam stood by the altar to burn incense. <sup>2</sup> Then he cried out against the altar by the word of the Lord, and said, “O altar, altar! Thus says the Lord: ‘Behold, a child, Josiah by name, shall be born to the house of David; and on you he shall sacrifice the priests of the high places who burn incense on you, and men’s bones shall be burned on you.’ ” <sup>3</sup> And he gave a sign the same day, saying, “This *is* the sign which the Lord has spoken: Surely the altar shall split apart, and the ashes on it shall be poured out.” <sup>4</sup> So it came to pass when King Jeroboam heard the saying of the man of God, who cried out against the altar in Bethel, that he stretched out his hand from the altar, saying, “Arrest him!” Then his hand, which he stretched out toward him, withered, so that he could not pull it back to himself. <sup>5</sup> The altar also was split apart, and the ashes poured out from the altar, according to the sign which the man of God had given by the word of the Lord. <sup>6</sup> Then the king answered and said to the man of God, “Please entreat the favor of the Lord your God, and pray for me, that my hand may be restored to me.” So the man of God entreated the Lord, and the king’s hand was restored to him, and became as before. <sup>7</sup> Then the king said to the man of God, “Come home with me and refresh yourself, and I will give you a reward.” <sup>8</sup> But the man of God said to the king, “If you were to give me half your house, I would not go in with you; nor would I eat bread nor drink water in this place. <sup>9</sup> For so it was commanded me by the word of the Lord, saying, ‘You shall not eat bread, nor drink water, nor return by the same way you came.’ ” <sup>10</sup> So he went another way and did not return by the way he came to Bethel.

## I. THE MAN OF GOD GOES WHERE GOD SAYS GO.

### A. The man of God went from Judah to Bethel.

1. where Jeroboam had set up one of the golden calves
2. I am sure he did not want to go into the hotbed of paganism

### B. Sometimes God sends us to places we do not want to go.

That is how God almost always brought people to Slidell.

That is probably not as true of Panama City.

#### 1. A common lie: "God would not want me to be somewhere I was not happy, so I should not go."

God knows your happiness is more dependent on your obedience and walk with Him than it is on your location.

#### 2. When we obey God, He provides for our happiness where He puts us.

### C. This is true concerning a place of service in the Kingdom of God as well as a physical location.

If you sense God calling you to a place of service, the question is not whether you think you will be happy doing it.

The fact is, you won't be genuinely happy not doing it.

If you obey God, he will see to your happiness in the midst of your obedience.

**1. The happiest people in the church are those who have obeyed the Lord to go and serve Him in the place and way He commanded.**

## II. THE MAN OF GOD SAYS WHAT GOD SAYS SAY.

1 Kings 13:2-3 Then he cried out against the altar by the word of the Lord, and said, "O altar, altar! Thus says the Lord: 'Behold, a child, Josiah by name, shall be born to the house of David; and on you he shall sacrifice the priests of the high places who burn incense on you, and men's bones shall be burned on you.' " <sup>3</sup> And he gave a sign the same day, saying, "This *is* the sign which the Lord has spoken: Surely the altar shall split apart, and the ashes on it shall be poured out."

**A. If you are going to be a man or woman of God in these days, you've got to say what God says not what this world wants to hear.**

Although the world says the Bible is full of myths and mistakes, you have got to say what God says about this book: "the law of the Lord is perfect..."

When the world says that everyone can just worship their higher power in the way they see fit and all roads go to heaven, you got to say what God says about Jesus:

"all the fullness of the Godhead dwells in Him..."

"no one comes to the father except through him

Though the world says that a woman has the right to choose what to do with a portion of her own body, you've got to say that an unborn child is a person created in the image of God his maker and no person has the right to end his innocent life.

And when the world says that homosexuality is a legitimate sexual orientation and lifestyle, the man of God will declare that according to the Word of the Lord that homosexuality is an abomination from which a person needs to be delivered by the redeeming power of the blood of Jesus Christ

**B. If you would be a man of God, a woman of God, your lips are not your own. They are bought with a price, and they must say what God says to say.**

## III. THE MAN OF GOD STANDS WHERE GOD SAYS STAND.

**A. In the place God says.**

1 Kings 13:4 So it came to pass when King Jeroboam heard the saying of the man of God, who cried out against the altar in Bethel, that he stretched out his hand from the altar, saying, "Arrest him!" Then his hand, which he stretched out toward him, withered, so that he could not pull it back to himself.

the man of God stood his ground at the altar God had condemned

hand of Jereboam withered

altar split in two

1. **And we must stand where God tells us to stand.**
2. **Not only must we speak God's Word, we must stand upon it.**

The day may come when the government says you cannot pray and tell people about Jesus and still receive USDA food to give out through the benevolence center. And if they do, we must stand. We will have to purchase more food, and find new sources of food.

The day may come when the authorities deny tax exempt status to churches that preach that the law of the land that allows for the slaughter of unborn children is a wicked and Godless law. But if they do, we must stand.

And everyone who is a man of God and a woman of God must stand when those kinds of tough challenges come before us.

## **B. On the Word of the Lord.**

1. **God told the man of God not to eat or drink in Bethel.**
2. **Man of God stood on that Word when invited to King's house. In fact, he said**

**1 Kings 13:8** But the man of God said to the king, "If you were to give me half your house, I would not go in with you; nor would I eat bread nor drink water in this place.

But after the conflict with the King, he let down his guard.

tell story of vv. 11-24

**This tragic end to his life came because he believed the word of the old prophet rather than standing on the Word of the Lord.**

We say, "How foolish!" And indeed it was.

But we are tempted to do the same all the time.

We know God says to forgive those who sin against you, but we hear some person say, "**Man I wouldn't forgive someone who did me like that.**" and we justify our bitterness.

We know God says we are to be storehouse tithers, bringing 10 % of our income to the Lord through our church, but we hear someone say, "**Tithing is OT; Jesus never taught tithing.**" and we choose to believe the lie rather than God's Word because it is what we want to believe.

And we reap the same results: bitterness consumes our joy and happiness like a devouring lion; and the devourer himself consumes our finances because we have robbed God.

3. **The man of God stands on the Word of the Lord.**

**CONCLUSION:** Have you ever thought about what you would like to be written on your tombstone? I can think of several things I would like but am not worthy of:

Short-winded preacher, nah forget that one

But I would be honored to have said of me

Faithful husband

Loving father

Faithful pastor

But you know the words I think would honor a man more than any I know would be

Man of God.

I want to be a man of God.

I want to go where God says go.

I want to say what God says say

I want to stand where God says stand

wherever it is on the Word of God.

It's not always the kind of man I am yet, but it is the kind of man I want to be. And it is the kind of man I want to become in the days ahead before God calls me home. How about you? Do you want to be a man of God? Do you want to be a woman of God?