

Day 63 – Apr. 26

Once the Kings of Israel turn away from God, the center of the story moves from the kings to the prophets. It seems that now the heroes of the story, besides God of course, are prophets, only some of whom get named. Today we meet one who speaks with Ahab even when Elijah is too afraid to.

Prophets speak to kings throughout the bible. From direct commands from God to metaphorical stories, from deception to make a point to odd behavior as warning, prophets seem to bring their messages straight from God to the king's ears. Today, we see direct command, but also deception from our unnamed prophet.

But we are often uncomfortable with the death and destruction wrought by the words of a prophet. We feel that God should just forgive everyone and play nice, or that He should just change their hearts to follow Him, or that a stern talking to should be enough. But this is God, and His word doesn't come very freely or to a lot of people. It is rare and often reserved for kings and prophets. That makes it one of the most valuable and important things on earth. When Ahab ignores the word of God, the consequences are dire. And when one prophet tells another to hit him and he refuses, again the consequences are dire.

Through Jesus Christ, the word of God is available to all of us through the Word of God, Jesus Christ (John 1:1). We have access to God's commands and comments, His actions and attitudes. Yet we treat it so lightly. In the bible we have record of God's past words, to others and to us, and through His Holy Spirit, we have the possibility of receiving a word from God ourselves. Yet we ignore, argue away, or disbelieve this reality and in fact most of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. We ask God to speak and show us what we want to know without truly believing He might speak to us. We ask God for the most important thing in the world, direct conversation with Him, and yet we only take time to truly listen for His word in short spurts. But if the prophets dedicated their entire lives to hearing God speak through them, what might it take for us to hear God's still, small voice? What might we need to put aside, not just for an hour, or even a day, but for a season, so that we might quiet the distractions of this world and hear God's voice? And if He does speak, is our faith strong enough to hear it without reasoning it away?

What might you put away for a season in order to quiet the distractions around you and truly listen for God's voice?