

Day 64 – Apr. 27

Poor Ahab really had a problem with his prophets. First it was Elijah who troubled him. Then nameless prophets who foretold his doom. Then his personal prophets are enticed to lie to get him killed in battle. And finally Micaiah, “his enemy” who never prophesied anything nice about him, seals his doom. And sure enough, all the words Micaiah spoke came true.

This concept of kings having a gathering of prophets around them regularly is an odd one. This is not the personal soothsayer like we see in movies and books, an advisor to stand by the throne and tell the king what God wants them to do. These are seemingly a number (400 in Ahab’s case) of people in the king’s employ who share advice, but more often encouragement, with the king. As we see an official commanding Micaiah to share positive words and good news only with Ahab, we see the MO of the larger group of prophets, to be simple “yes men” for the king. “Yes, you are amazing!” “Yes, you should do just what you want.” “Yes, everyone is happy with you all the time.”

But it seems that when we find a true prophet, like Elijah or Micaiah, they are there to share bad but important news with kings. They come with warnings, dire prophecies, and threats from God. Why is this? Why can’t God just send some good news once in a while? Probably because with such evil kings, there is no good news. And if the king is doing God’s will, there is not much need for God’s corrective.

Do you find yourself surrounded by “yes men” like the kings of old? Do you have someone wise and in touch with God who will tell you the bad news you don’t want to (but usually need to) hear? And when they speak, do you follow their criticism down the rabbit hole to self-loathing (or self-pity), or to defensiveness? Or can we hear God’s criticism constructively and use it to build a stronger faith, to draw closer to Him, and to truly seek His will in all things?