



Main Passage: 1 Kings 13

Theological Theme

We have been given the written Word of God to teach, instruct, and guide us in all things. We must trust what God says over anything the world offers.

Introduction

- ❓ When have you made the wrong decision about trusting your sense of direction or the GPS?
- ❓ How do you usually decide when faced with these types of choices?

1. God Speaks (1 Kings 13:1-10)

God spoke to one of His prophets, sending him to Jeroboam with a warning. The Lord was not pleased with the high places that Jeroboam had created to worship false gods. The man of God was sent with a prophetic message about a king who would be raised up and destroy those high places when he took over the reign of Israel. Obviously, this was not good news for the current king and, though he had no idea of the timeline, this caused concern for the king that he dealt with until his death.

- ❓ What's an example from your life of a time you started strong but had trouble completing the task you began? What tempts us to do this as we follow Jesus?
- ❓ What are some things related to following Christ that people resist because they aren't easy to hear?
- ❓ Application: Where do you need to avoid involvement with things that are contrary to the ways of the Lord?

2. Beware of False Prophets (1 Kings 13:11-19)

After the man of God refused Jeroboam's invitation and promise of reward, he was faced with another similar invitation. This time an older prophet who heard what happened came to the man of God and desired to meet and eat with him. The man of God gave the same response to the prophet that he did to Jeroboam for the exact same reason—God had warned against this.

- ❓ Why do you think the man of God could have justified accepting the second invitation? How does this illustrate the way temptation to disobey often works?
- ❓ How does this instance remind us of the importance of standing on the Word of God and not only what we are feeling or what others say God told them?
- ❓ Application: Where do you currently need direction? How can you seek wisdom for that situation from God's Word?

3. Obey God Over People (1 Kings 13:20-34)

Once the man of God from Judah sat and ate with the older prophet, his disobedience was made clear, and he was subjected to dire consequences. The old prophet received a true word from the Lord. He told the man of God he was going to receive harsh judgment for not staying true to God's command.

- ❓ How do believers get drawn away by subtle and seemingly innocent things? How can we guard against anything that opposes God's desires and commands for us?
- ❓ What is challenging to you about instances where people receive harsh punishment for sin like this one? How do these accounts reveal God's grace in the warnings they give us?
- ❓ Application: How can you seek to be guided by the Word of God over all else?

Conclusion

- ❓ Where do you currently need advice or guidance? How can you seek wisdom from God's Word and the Holy Spirit?
- ❓ How can we as a group encourage one another to continually stand on the truths of God's Word?
- ❓ Who can you tell about Jesus by sharing the truth of God's Word with them?