

## “Staying Focused On His Mission”

1 Kings 13:1-10

8/9/11

**Introduction:** The story is told of a man who was teaching his son how to drive. He told his son that the key to being a safe driver is to always stay focused on the road. Two weeks later, the man let his son drive to the movies by himself. But, after going just three miles, the son drove the car into a ditch. When the son was questioned, he replied, “Dad, I was blinded by oncoming head lights. I lost my focus and found myself in the ditch upside down.” Like this son, as born-again believers in Jesus Christ, when we don’t stay focused on the mission the Lord has given us and are blinded by our own selfish desires, distractions, etc., we can find ourselves in a ditch (**Matthew 15:14**) (**Colossians 3:2**). In our lesson tonight, we are going to see a man who stayed focused on the mission God had given him in spite of the confrontation he experienced.

### Verses 1-3

### Message

These verses tell us the message that the man of God had for Jeroboam, but Jeroboam did not want to hear it. Worshipping in the land of Israel had **deteriorated**. The sign that God was **displeased** with this worship would be the destruction of the altar and the ashes spilling out on the ground. Proper ritual required the disposal of sacrificial ashes in a special clean place. Contact with the ground would render the ashes unclean and nullify the procedure (**Leviticus 6:10-11**). God was not pleased with Jeroboam’s worship. The question we may want to ask ourselves is whether God is pleased with our worship? Looking back at verse 1, we see that Jeroboam is standing by the altar when he hears about this judgment. This should remind us that it is possible to be in the right place, but doing the **wrong** thing. Whenever we come before the Almighty, Holy God, we ought to know what we were created to do (**Hebrews 13:15**) (**Revelation 4:11**). God’s Word, our witness and worship are essential for Christian living. The Lord is looking for true worshippers, those who will worship God in the body and **spirit** (**1 Corinthians 6:20**) (**John 4:24**).

## Verses 4-6

### Mercy

These verses show us that in spite of Jeroboam's evil intentions, the Lord had mercy on him. If we are honest with ourselves, it was God's grace and mercy that kept us (and still keeping us) from the **punishment** we deserved. Can we look over our lives and think of some things that we should have been punished for, but we were shown mercy? Verse 4 tells us that after Jeroboam heard what the man of God said, he **stretched** forth his hand and said "take him" (the man of God). But, after Jeroboam stretched forth his hand, it dried up (withered), which was instant punishment from God. Jeroboam tried to destroy the man of God, however his hand dried up right before his own eyes (**Psalm 105:15**). God wasted no time with the sign. The altar was destroyed and the ashes were poured out just as He had said. Jeroboam quickly **realizes** that this man is truly from God. He knows that the only help he has in getting his hand restored is if the man of God will pray to God for him. The man prays and God restores Jeroboam's hand. In midst of Jeroboam's tyranny, God showed him mercy. Repentance brings restoration. If we confess our sins, God will forgive us (**1 John 1:9**). The Lord has **unlimited** forgiveness (**Matthew 18:21-22**) (**Colossians 3:13**). Why can't we forgive?

## Verses 7-10

### Mission

These verses show us that the man of God was focused on the mission God had given him. In spite of the delay and **distraction**, he stayed true to his directions from God (**Philippians 3:13-14**). We see Jeroboam wanted to reward the man of God because he prayed for him and he was healed. Jeroboam asked the man of God to come to his house so he might give him a **present**, but the man of God would not go. We must understand that we cannot pay for a healing and expect to get blessed. The man of God tells Jeroboam in verse 8, if you give me half of your house, he still would not eat bread or drink water in that place. Why? God had already told the man of God to eat no bread nor drink water from them. The man of God did not want to **participate** in their evil (**2 Corinthians 6:17**) (**Romans 12:2**). Have you ever been asked to participate in something that you know was evil and if you would have done it, it would have damaged your walk before God and people? What was their evil? They had a worship problem. But, this man of God was on a mission from God. It is a sad commentary when we allow mess to interfere with God's mission. If we want to reach our full **potential** in God, we have to stay focused on God's mission!

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