

How Well Do You Listen to God?

I. Ahab & Jehashophat Wanted a Specific Answer (1 Kin. 22)

- A. Some background:
 - 1. Ahab was a wicked king.
 - 2. Assyria was a major threat to northern Israel & Judah.
 - 3. Ahab joined a coalition of several nations and broke Assyria's control over the area, except Ramoth-Gilead.
 - 4. Ahab sees an opportunity to regain control of the city.
- B. Ahab invites Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, to join armies and reclaim the city.
- C. God's approach to Jehoshaphat's question—give him what he wants.
- D. Micaiah tells the king what he wants to hear.
- E. Micaiah tells the king what he doesn't want to hear—truth.
- F. The big message: God permitted Ahab to hear what he wanted to believe.

II. Warning: People Will Want Their Ears Tickled

- A. Paul's 2nd letter to Timothy focused on 2 situations. (2 Tim. 4:3, 4)
- B. Consider the significance of what Paul meant by this.
 - 1. For Timothy, dangerous periods were coming.
 - 2. What made them so dangerous? Hearing only what they wanted to hear.

III. The Reasons For Combining the Two Scripture Selections

- A. People of all ages have the same problem: they want to hear what they already concluded was okay. (1 Thess. 2:3-6)
- B. God allows us to hear precisely what we want to hear. (2 Thess. 2:11, 12)

Conclusion: The great divorce: there's a real danger that's always existed among God's people—spiritual divorce. It causes most non-Christians to be very unimpressed with us. When we divorce what believe from how we live everyone but us can see this divorce in our pleasures, our greed, in the way we treat people, and in the way we act outside the church building. Are we godly because we're sure we believe the right things or because Jesus Christ has changed the way we think and live? How well do you listen to God?