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Wednesday Bible Study, April 21, 2010

TITLE: Who are you kidding?

**1 Kings 14**

6 And it was so, when Ahijah heard the sound of her feet, as she came in at the door, that he said, Come in, thou wife of Jeroboam; why feignest thou thyself to be another? for I am sent to thee with heavy tidings.

NOTE:

I hope that you understand the important role that you have for you family.

NOTE:

I hope that you understand the importance of raising your children in the church

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**① The Setting**

Books of the Bible: 5-12-5-5-12

5 books of the Pentateuch....the Law of Moses

12 books of History

5 books of Poetry

5 Major Prophets

12 Minor Prophets

Written in 1 Kings, one of the books of history.

During the time of the Kingdom age....just following the reign of Solomon.

Some of the greatest years of Israel

Introduce you to the characters of this story.

**① Solomon**

Son of David, King of Israel....certainly blessed of God.

## ② Ahijah, the venerable prophet

In GOD's time: Not till our work is through.

Notice this venerable prophet.....a man so old as to have survived his sense of sight... seems that it would be time for him to die?  
Has he not outlived his usefulness when he is made entirely dependent upon others, and a burden to himself?

Surely it is time for God to call him home!

But no, he does not. Ahijah must not die; he has another message to deliver, and he is immortal till his work is done.

Lesson: as long as you are here, God has a work for you.

## ③ Jeroboam

### ④ wife of Jeroboam

### ⑤ their son, Abijah

## ② The Story

Jeroboam: a good beginning

### 1. Received the blessing of Solomon.

1Kings 11

28 And the man Jeroboam [was] a mighty man of valour: and Solomon seeing the young man that he was industrious, he made him ruler over all the charge of the house of Joseph.

Jeroboam was a highly gifted and courageous young man from the tribe of Ephraim.

He is noticed by Solomon early in his reign and was recognized for his ability.

As a result, Solomon made him overseer of the fortifications and public work at Jerusalem, and placed him over the house of Joseph, which probably means all ten tribes of Israel, clearly a very important position.

### 2. Received the blessing of the prophet Ahijah.

1Kings 11

31 And Ahijah said to Jeroboam, Take thee ten pieces: for thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel, Behold, I will rend the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon, and will give ten tribes to thee:

verse 33: the prophet of God speaks against those that worshipped Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, Chemosh the god of the Moabites, and Milcom the god of the children of Ammon, and have not walked in my ways....

And takes the ten tribes out of their hands and gives them to Jereboam.

3. The son of Jereboam was raised to be righteous.

1 Kings 14

13 And all Israel shall mourn for him, and bury him: for he only of Jeroboam shall come to the grave, because in him there is found [some] good thing toward the LORD God of Israel in the house of Jeroboam.

18 And they buried him; and all Israel mourned for him, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by the hand of his servant Ahijah the prophet.

verse 13... All Israel shall mourn for him: respected of Israel

verse 13... and bury him: only member of his family to be buried; his mother and father and the rest of his family does not have the dignity of a decent burial.

1Ki 14:11 Him that dieth of Jeroboam in the city shall the dogs eat; and him that dieth in the field shall the fowls of the air eat: for the LORD hath spoken [it].

NLT version:

I, the LORD, vow that the members of your family who die in the city will be eaten by dogs, and those who die in the field will be eaten by vultures.' "

for he only of Jeroboam shall come to the grave  
This indicates that he stood out from the rest of his family.

because in him there is found [some] good thing toward the LORD.

In this son was found some good thing toward the Lord.

③ The Lesson: see the road traveled by this family.

Jeroboam and his wife

① did not often go to hear Ahijah. They were not people who went to worship Jehovah; they neither feared God nor regarded his prophet.

Probably not many such here tonight; Wednesday nights usually are represented by the faithful....you are often at the place of worship.

Now, here was an occasional hearer; and we make the observation that this occasional hearer was totally destitute of faithfulness.

Most occasional hearers are. Those who have true religion are not occasional hearers. You will find that truly gracious persons are diligent in the use of the means.

Instead of thinking it a toil to come up to the place of worship, I know there are some of you who wish there were two Sundays in the week; and

the happiest times you ever have are when you are sitting in these seats and joining in our sacred songs.

② these occasional hearers come because they are in trouble.

When Jeroboam's wife came and spoke to the prophet, it was because the dear child was ill at home. I know some occasional

hearers who go to a place of worship as people go to a chemist's shop; that is, when they want something because they do not feel quite right. Yes, your child is very sick.

So you have come here to see if the Lord may have a word of comfort through his servant who speaks to you. I can only say you are very welcome to come in, thou wife of Jeroboam. We are as glad to see you as though you always came, and we do hope that this sorrowful affliction may be overruled by God for your lasting good.

There are persons who profess to be atheists, but their atheism is not very deep.

One story tells of a man, on board ship on the sea...found himself in a terrible storm that threatened to take the lives of all those on board. The man knelt down to pray, and expressed his firm belief in a God. After the ship rode out the storm with no casualties...the man arrived ashore to have someone laugh at him for praying. He challenged the man and they fought together. The atheist fell wounded.

When his blood began to flow, and he believed once again that his life was in danger, he began to cry to God with all his might to save him, proclaiming his faith that there was a God.

The attending physician bound up the wound and assured the man that his injury was "only a flesh wound" and that he would make a full recovery.

Then, said the man, "There is no God; I am a thorough atheist."

He believed in God when he thought he was going to die: the moment he felt he was safe or that he would recover, he returned to his unbelief.

As simple as that story might sound.... it is lived out by many in this world.

A religion good enough to die with should be good enough to live in.

Your absence from God's house will do very well when things go well with you: you can go out with a young wife to dissipate in frivolity hours which should be sacred to worship; but when sickness shall

come-when affliction shall fall heavily upon you-when you have trial after trial, and you yourself begin to get grey with many cares, and feeble and helpless with many years; and death comes near and casts his pale shadow across your cheek; and strange thoughts, oblivious of all around, come over you by day; and singular dreams which throw you into the company of the long since dead, surprise you by night; and fears and frights, and signs and calls, and bodings of imagination, prove the wanderings and weakness of your brain-then, but possibly not till then, you think of going to the house of God. I am glad, therefore, if this trouble has visited you early, or ever “the grinders cease because they are few, and those that look out of the windows be darkened;” and I am very glad that you have come to the house of God. Come in, thou wife of Jeroboam, for I bear thee tidings from the God of heaven tonight.

③ this woman came only because Ahijah had preached before.

14 verse 2

... there [is] Ahijah the prophet, which told me that [I should be] king over this people.

That message proved true; Jeroboam liked what Ahijah had said. There are many who at times welcome the message from God that speaks of blessings and good things that will come. But there are times when the you tremble under God’s Word.

④ It must have been the early years that saved this son.

they had one Godly member of their family  
That was what brought them to see the prophet.  
Their son was sick and ill, and it was that which led them to seek the Lord.

NOTE:

I hope that you understand the importance of raising your children in the church.

## Numbers

Experts in child development tell us that there are "windows" in a child's life when they must learn something and if they don't master that particular lesson then, they never reach their potential in that area.

If a child doesn't learn to walk in the first two years...they never will walk as well as they could have....if a child doesn't learn to read at a certain time, they never read as well. Well the same is true of learning spiritual things.

There is a "teachable" moment in our lives when it is easiest for us to embrace a personal faith in God and it is when we are children.

So, if we do not actively lead our children to their Savior and Lord, we are hindering them from reaching the full potential of God's design.

Dr. R. G. Lee gave some startling statistics about the importance of leading a child to Jesus.

- ✓ 19 out of every 20 people who become Christians do so before they reach the age of 25.
- ✓ After 25 only one in 10,000 do so.
- ✓ After 35 only one in 50,000 do so---and it goes down from there.
- ✓ The older a person gets without becoming a Christian the less likely they are to do so.

**Patrick Henry** the famous early American statesman said the following concerning the disposition of his estate.

"I have now disposed of all my property to my family.

There is one thing more I wish I could give them, and that is the Christian religion. If they had that, and I had not given them one shilling, they would have been rich; and if they had not that, and I had given them all the world, they would be poor."

Look at what Jesus has to say.....

Mark 10

13 And they brought young children to him, that he should touch them: and [his] disciples rebuked those that brought [them].

14 But when Jesus saw [it], he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God.

15 Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein.

What will be the benefit of a church with a great youth and children's ministry?

① First of all, parents will have help in the TEACHING process

It is tough raising kids.....It is hard work teaching them the things they need to know.

Pulitzer prize winning author Robert Coles spent his life studying the moral development of children.

He is perhaps best known for his popular children's book, The Story of Ruby Bridges, about a child whose life Coles studied in the 1960's.

Each morning and each afternoon for months, six-year-old Ruby Bridges, an African-American child, walked through a mob of adults who yelled threats at her.

This was the price she paid to attend school a school that had been all white until she enrolled.

Coles wondered how a six-year-old could face her assailants each morning with a smile and then prayed for them every night.

What gave little Ruby the strength to integrate a school?

Coles notes that his research showed that religion and faith played an important role in this child's life.

Writing about Ruby he said, "If I had to offer an explanation for her fortitude I think I would start with her religious tradition."

Ruby's church family taught her that God had a purpose for her life. This gave her a reason to be strong. The preaching and teaching at her church also told her that the road to heaven would not be easy. The hard experiences of life, therefore, did not take her by surprise. Ruby believed what her preacher said, and his words supplied her with direction and strength.

Raising children these days is tough. It is a real challenge to teach them the principles that are found in God's word but it is a lot easier if they are involved in a church that makes children's ministry a FIRST thing.

First....

① parents will have help in the TEACHING process and secondly....

② youth at the Apostolic Church of Barberton are blessed by a world-class children's and youth ministry.

When parents bring their kids to a church that puts CHILDREN FIRST the children are encouraged by others, inspired by their example, and held accountable by a wider group than just their own parents.

Think of all the Apostolic Church has to offer it's children: We are blessed with...

Apostolic Angels, Missionettes, ATAs, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, young boys athletic programs.... basketball and softball; young mens athletic programs; facilities that include softball diamonds and a gymnasium; ....and we haven't even begun to talk about the most important things that this church offers.... the youth ministry. We have several youth ministers and youth staff workers.

We have a Children's Pastor and many that work with him.

Recently purchased a bus so that they could conveniently travel.

A weekly youth service on Friday night; Wednesday night classes; Sunday night youth prayer; a youth music program and youth choir; Silent Praise.....

A world-class Christian Education department on Sunday morning;  
puppet ministry; youth camps.....  
10 Doctrines for Kids that teaches Apostolic Doctrine.

Parents that bring their kids to the Apostolic Church.....

- ① will have help in the TEACHING process
  - ② expose their youth to a world-class children's and youth ministry.
- And thirdly....

③ Kids at the Apostolic church have opportunities for choosing  
GODLY FRIENDSHIPS.

Proverbs 13

20 He that walketh with wise [men] shall be wise: but a companion  
of fools shall be destroyed.

1 Corinthians 15:33

KJV Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.

NIV Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character."

So, a church with such a youth program:

Parents that bring their kids to the Apostolic Church.....

- ① will have help in the TEACHING process
- ② expose their youth to a world-class children's and youth ministry.
- ③ Kids at the Apostolic church have opportunities for choosing  
GODLY FRIENDSHIPS.

And fourth.....

④ the whole CHURCH will be blessed

1. Adult leaders grow spiritually.
2. These youth will be saved.
3. The church has a future.
4. the entire world will BENEFIT

II. The futility of the useless disguise.

Jeroboam's wife thought to herself, "If I go to see Ahijah, as he knows me to be the wife of Jeroboam, he is sure to speak angrily, and give me very bad news."

Strange to tell, though the poor old gentleman was blind, she thought it necessary to put on a disguise. So she doffed her best garment, and put on a countrywoman's russet gown, and away she went. She left the scepter and crown behind, and took a basket, as though she had just come from market.

### III. Heavy Tidings

Now we come to a close with a few words upon the HEAVY TIDINGS.

The woman stood amazed as the prophet proceeded to expose the iniquity of her husband's house, the certain judgment which God would execute, and the terrible disgrace with which the name of Jeroboam should be execrated, because they had revolted from God and set up for themselves the calves of Baal.