



## Lessons From a Lion

1 Kings 13:1-24

Do I obey God only how and when I want to? First Kings 13 gives the fascinating account of a fearless man of God. This man stood before King Jeroboam and

obeyed God, boldly prophesying against this powerful King. Predictably, the King ordered the man seized; God intervened by paralyzing King Jeroboam's hand. Later, when the man of God was on his way home, a prophet told him that an angel had revealed a different course of action than that which the Lord had previously commanded him. The man of God believed the prophet (who was lying) and turned aside to eat. **Sadly, he paid with his life for not obeying God's clear directive.**

Like this man, we can talk ourselves out of almost anything, especially when we are exhausted and hungry, as this man must have been. Eve's experience with Satan reminds us of how easy it is to set aside God's well-defined instructions. Balaam is another example of a man who talked himself out of obeying God's clear command. Balaam had strong convictions about obeying the Lord: "If Balak would give me his house full of silver or gold, I cannot go beyond the word of the LORD my God, to do less or more." However, another course of action began to look increasingly attractive, and Balaam disobeyed the Lord. (Numbers 22:12-22).

How important it is to get our counsel from God. Even a trusted person may endeavor to change our minds. "Oh, I don't feel the Lord would have you do that" reaches our ears and we reconsider. May we be always listening for God's still, small voice as revealed in God's authoritative Word. God has given us the privilege to choose His way. **When we know the clear word of the Lord, may nothing deter us from the course of action He has shown to us.**

*George Zeller, [www.middletownbiblechurch.org](http://www.middletownbiblechurch.org)*



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