STUDY TEXT:

1 Kings 13:22, 27-32 (K)

1 Kings 13:22 But camest back, and hast eaten bread and drunk water in the place, of the which the LORD did say to thee, Eat no bread, and drink no water; thy carcase shall not come unto the sepulchre of thy fathers.

1 Kings 13:27 And he spake to his sons, saying, Saddle me the ass. And they saddled him.

28 And he went and found his carcase cast in the way, and the ass and the lion standing by the carcase: the lion had not eaten the carcase, nor torn the ass.

29 And the prophet took up the carcase of the man of God, and laid it upon the ass, and brought it back: and the old prophet came to the city, to mourn and to bury him.

30 And he laid his carcase in his own grave; and they mourned over him, saying, Alas, my brother!

31 And it came to pass, after he had buried him, that he spake to his sons, saying, When I am dead, then bury me in the sepulchre wherein the man of God is buried; lay my bones beside his bones:

32 For the saying which he cried by the word of the LORD against the altar in Bethel, and against all the houses of the high places which are in the cities of Samaria, shall surely come to pass.

APPLICATION POINT:

Impressions of reproof and shame are often the initial soul-stabbing consequences experienced by a guilty conscience; however, short of an alternative response of authentic repentance, any subsequent actions of external remorse are merely shallow and often purely superstitious, not in alignment with true, biblical evidence reflecting the presence of godly sorrow.

JUST AS THE LORD HAD SAID

FOCUS TEXT: And he laid his carcase in his own grave; and they mourned over him, saying, Alas, my brother!

1 Kings 13:30 (K)

The resulting message from the amazing spectacle of the lifeless carcass of the deceased prophet and the lion, standing as sentry was clearly designed to send an explicit message regard the truth and faithfulness of the Word of God.

Unquestionably, here we are shown that the utterances of divine decree are not to be trifled with; nor carelessly dismissed.

Psalms 119:89 strongly emphasized to us: **"For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven."**

And in **Isaiah 55:10** the Lord has personally affirmed to every generation of the redeemed, **"So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."**

In the present scene we are reminded that this unalterable truth point pertains impartially to matters are favorable to us or not.

An Ambiguous Response

At best, this is the best explanation that we can deduce from the subsequent actions of the old (false) prophet toward the deceased man of God.

Clearly, there was no indication that he became converted by the fulfillment of the divine decree that was spoken to Him; nor was it the case that there was any evidence that upon witnessing the true impact of the Word of God, compelled him to become a staunch advocate against the conditions of spiritual wickedness that had quickly dominated the public scene of life in that northern region.

Perhaps, it was true as many commentators have speculated that he felt guilty over his scheme of deception that clearly contributed to the demise of God's true servant.

Yet, if that be the case, again it had no true impact on the state of his heart, nor his relationship with Holy God.

Thus, here we are taught that the external actions of the unredeemed can never truly reflect authenticity of sentiments that can only be demonstrated through the power and influence of the Spirit of God.

Recall the emotional expression made by the King Darius toward hearing that the Lord had supernaturally protected Daniel from a den of ferocious man-eaters**. Daniel 6:23** detailed, **"Then was the king exceeding glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God."**

Note here that although he was **"exceeding glad for him,"** that sentiment did not produce that needed change of heart toward the true and living God within.

Every demonstration of divine power is initially designed to illumination and flood our darken heart with the grace of grants of divine enlightenment.

Psalms 119:130 explains to us: **"The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple."**

Yet, when we do not rightly respond to the wooing heart-work of the Spirit of the Lord, we remain unchanged and drift further from the place of liberating deliverance.

In this instance, any subsequent actions are purely superficially and substitutionally superstitious.

Consider the foolish and false statements made by the false prophet regarding the bones of the true man of God. Upon his death, he starkly charged his sons in **verse 31**, **"When I am dead, then bury me in the sepulchre wherein the man of God is buried; lay my bones beside his bones."**

But think about it. What was the true relevance of having his bones (the wicked) buried by those of God's servant (the righteous).

It had absolutely no bearing on change his spiritual status before holy God; nor the ultimate eternal destiny of his soul

Likewise, there are many whose sinful ways are often shamefully reproved and whose conscience and pricked with guilt by the convicting impact of true light-bearers.