

# Kill the Messenger!

Joe Slater

A wise king seeks advisors who will tell the truth, whereas a foolish ruler wants yes men who will tell him what he wants to hear. Entirely too often the fools carry the day, as exemplified by King Jehoram of Israel.

Because of Israel's persistent idolatry under Jehoram and his predecessors, the Lord allowed the Syrian king Ben-Hadad to besiege Israel's capital, Samaria. The resulting famine became so severe that a donkey's head sold for 80 shekels of silver, and roughly a pint of dove droppings brought five shekels of silver. People were literally eating their own children! (See 2 Kings 6:26-29).

A wise and godly king would have been moved to repentance. But wicked Jehoram vowed to kill Elisha, God's prophet who had rebuked the king's sinfulness. Not that long ago Jehoram had witnessed God's utter defeat of the Syrians when Elisha prayed (2 Kings 6:8-23). Now, however, all he wanted was the prophet's blood. Yes, indeed, "Kill the messenger!"

Jehoram had learned well from his grandfather, Ahab, who persecuted Micaiah for foretelling his defeat in battle and ultimate demise. Many other reprobate rulers followed in their footsteps. Herod Antipas murdered John the Immerser for rebuking his adulterous marriage. The Sanhedrin murdered Jesus for exposing their hypocritical lawlessness. In all cases the evildoers thought killing the messenger would solve their problem; but it never did!

To my knowledge my life has never been seriously threatened for speaking the truth. More than one has been plenty angry with me, but not to the degree of trying to kill me! However, the concept of blaming the messenger is alive and well. Let's remember that the message is God's; the faithful messenger has no control over it, nor will being angry with the messenger cause the message to change.

# Ten Things Students Will Not Learn In School

(Ed. Note: School is out, but it will be back in session before you can say "summer vacation." Consider the article below as early notice!)

1. Life isn't fair. Get used to it.
2. If you think your teacher is tough, wait until you get a boss.
3. The real world won't care as much about your self-esteem as your school does. This may come as a shock.
4. You won't make \$60,000 a year right out of high school. You won't be a vice president, and you may even have to wear a uniform that doesn't have a designer label.
5. Flipping hamburgers isn't beneath your dignity. Your grandparents had a different word for flipping burgers. They called it opportunity.
6. It's not your parents' fault if you mess up.
7. Before you were born your parents weren't boring. They got that way paying bills.
8. Life isn't divided into semesters. You don't get summers off, and you don't get a spring break.
9. Vaping doesn't make you look cool.
10. Your school may be "outcome based," but life isn't.

--Author Unknown (via *House to House/Heart to Heart*)

# SANDWICH IT IN

Many of you can agree with this statement: "There is always something else to do." When we go to bed at night, we do so knowing there is something we didn't accomplish that day.

As Christians, there is always another person to encourage or teach. We always could read and study more of our Bible, or we could always spend a little more time in prayer and devotion. There is always another lesson to apply.

Amazingly, though, we often leave all of that out of our daily routine. While we know (as the song states), "There is much to do, there's work on every hand," we often put our relationship with God on hold while we finish other tasks.

It is commonplace for us to complete our tasks for our occupation while not taking a few moments to read God's Word each day. It is the usual practice for us to make sure our homes are clean and that we are caught up on laundry and bills, without ever thinking about taking a few minutes to pray.

This article is not meant to cause guilt; rather, it is meant to show us that there is time to do both! There are many times in each day when we have "free" time, but we nearly always devote that time to activities other than those dealing with God. I've told many folks, even if you'll just read the Bible for 5 minutes on your lunch break, you'll be amazed at the difference it makes in your life! That's just one simple suggestion; there are many other times when you could "sandwich" in some time with God.

Could you rise 10 minutes earlier? How about staying up 15 minutes later? Could you take a Bible to work and read on your breaks? How about listening to sermons in the car?

After some time, you'll find you want more and more time in these efforts, so start making the time now.

--Adam Faughn (via *Bulletin Gold*)