

A dramatic Baroque painting of a church interior. In the foreground, a group of men in armor and a woman in a white dress are seated at a table. In the background, a preacher in a dark robe is speaking from a pulpit, gesturing with his right hand. The scene is filled with people, some looking towards the preacher, others looking away. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights and deep shadows.

Dear Preacher,

Your Lack of Faith...

Is Most Disturbing!



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“And the man of God was wroth with him.”

(2 Kings 13:19)

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Introduction

The Bible is full of the contention of God against man, against men. If then, God is so often so severely inclined - then a man who speaks for God - must speak *all*. If he *refuses...* If he stubbornly, wickedly speaks only what is easily heard and *not* the *full* counsel of God, if he does *not* proclaim what is also *hard* to hear then he is *dishonest*, a false prophet, worthy of stones to be thrown down upon him from Heaven.

**Neither let nor expect me to be such, o brethren.
Let me *not* be disloyal, *not* a thief nor a robber.
Let me *not*, no *never* hide from you the full
complete counsel of God. Allow me my brothers
and sister, your fellow servant and therefore
your fellow minister of the Lord Jesus Christ to
be honest, to tell you truth, whether it soothes
your ear or divides your soul.**

**Listen then. *Be* made better. Resist *not* at all,
and repent completely and be made as Peter
walking on the sea - and not drowning in it.**

“And the man of God was wroth with him, and said, Thou shouldest have smitten five or six times; then hadst thou smitten Syria till thou hadst consumed it: whereas now thou shalt smite Syria but thrice.”

(2 Kings 13:19)

I. Your lack of faith - your lack of faith is most disturbing because it is wicked.

**“So Saul died for his transgression
which he committed against the Lord,
even against the word of the Lord,
which he kept not, and also for asking
counsel of one that had a familiar
spirit, to enquire of it;”**

(1 Chronicles 10:13)

- **“God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day.”
(Psalm 7:11)**

“And the man of God was wroth with him, and said, Thou shouldest have smitten five or six times; then hadst thou smitten Syria till thou hadst consumed it: whereas now thou shalt smite Syria but thrice.”

(2 Kings 13:19)

II. Your lack of faith - your lack of faith is most disturbing because it is sin.

**“So Saul died for his breach of faith.
He broke faith with the Lord in that he
did not keep the command of the Lord,
and also consulted a medium, seeking
guidance.”**

(1 Chronicles 10:13, ESV)

- **“For whatsoever is not of faith is sin.” (Romans 14:23b)**

“And the man of God was wroth with him, and said, Thou shouldest have smitten five or six times; then hadst thou smitten Syria till thou hadst consumed it: whereas now thou shalt smite Syria but thrice.”

(2 Kings 13:19)

III. Your lack of faith - your lack of faith is most disturbing because it is damning.

“And **enquired not of the Lord: therefore he slew him, and turned the kingdom unto David the son of Jesse.”**

(1 Chronicles 10:14)

“But the fearful, and **unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.”**

(Revelation 21:8)

“And the man of God was wroth with him, and said, Thou shouldest have smitten five or six times; then hadst thou smitten Syria till thou hadst consumed it: whereas now thou shalt smite Syria but thrice.”

(2 Kings 13:19)

Conclusion

“Then Jesus answered and said, ‘O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him hither to me.’”

(Matthew 17:17)

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Thumbnail and opening image: John Knox preaching before the lords of the Congregation (from the painting by Sir David Wilkie, as presented by the National Galleries of Scotland,

<https://artuk.org/discover/artworks/the-preaching-of-john-knox-before-the-lords-of-the-congregation-10th-june-1559-210854#>