

*Hello! This is Dorothy -*

Have you ever heard the little phrase, “Good guy/bad guy?” Good guy/bad guy. I think some people run their businesses that way as they decide how to go about something and somebody will come on as the good guy and somebody will come on as the bad guy. Well, a quick summation of what happened to the kings of Israel, you could more or less say “good guy/bad guy” and write that over one after the other, because, time and time again, you read the little phrase that God was not pleased with them. I think there were more bad guys than good guys, but there were some good guys and we thank God for that.

I want us to turn today to **2 Kings, chapter 23**, and read a little phrase here. It is speaking here of the order that came on down that they were to put away the idolatrous priests, that is, the people who had the image of doing the right religious thing but, at the same time, they were playing with other gods. They were going along with what God totally forbade. It says in **verse 4** that they were

**4 ... to bring out from the temple of the Lord all the vessels that were made for Baal**, this evil false idol. The Bible shows that every time we worship anything or anybody outside of Jesus Christ, we are not only worshiping, as some might say, “a dumb idol,” but we are worshiping demons! You see, behind all of this worship, God’s enemy, Satan, would have us worshiping himself. Therefore, when people think they are just bowing down to some idol, they are bowing down to demons in demonic holds around the idol, always thinking they are going to get something. You know, that is

how Satan is, isn't he? He would lead you to think, "Well, if you just go down this little path, this little compromise, this little idea, it is going to work out and something good is going to happen at the end of it," but that is just the way Satan tricks so many lives! I have met too many young ladies who say, "Well, you know he's a wonderful fellow! He's just marvelous and, you know, he's nicer than anybody else I have met and he is such a good man! But, yes - no, I quite agree: he's not a Christian, but you don't understand what he is going to be like after we are married!" You see, Satan wraps up many of his packages with big bows that really catch our eye.

So, it is very important for us to be very conscious that, in all things, we know the voice of the Lord and we do not dabble in the things that the Lord says that there is something evil and wrong in them. Sometimes we don't realize why it is evil and wrong. We think, "Well, there's nothing wrong in that!" But the Lord has a way for each of His children that is clean and pure and right and sometimes it is denying things that you think you just have to do or places you have to go, but the Lord has the best for us in the end. And oh, He only does it for our own good!

So this king said to get these people out of the temple, these ones who had brought these evil vessels, mixing up with God the things that belonged to the satanic, idolatrous practice of worshiping Baal. But also, they had been burning incense. Can you imagine, mixing up burning incense, as in **verse 5**. They **burned incense** at the same

time unto to the Lord, which was meant for prayer unto Christ, direct prayer for He is our intercessor, who ever-liveth to make intercession for us. They were mixing up these other kinds of prayers: "Oh, you know, if you could work this out for us or do

that.” It is these wishful, as it were, satanic traps that we put ourselves in. As we read here in **chapter 23 of 2 Kings -**

**5 . . . (they) also burned incense unto Baal, to the sun, and to the moon, and to the planets, and to all the hosts of heaven.**

There is so much confusion even as to the season of the year, what it is all about, and we miss the fact that the way of God is according to His Word, which is a clear way, a plain way.

**6 And he - the king - brought out the grove from the house of the Lord . . .**

Groves were places of worshiping in sensual ways with dreadful, horrible things happening, where people performed these practices and they did it in worshiping, as it were, their own gods. It is just the demonic level of where Satan would bring the purity and sanctity of sex of a one husband/one wife purity and beauty of marriage brought down to these demonic levels, which never meet, as it were, the desire of a heart for, always, they are being dragged along to the next thing.

**7 And he brake down the houses of the sodomites, that were in the house of the Lord . .** The things that were going on were depicted there just like they are going on today.

To stand in Christ is often to stand totally against everything and everybody that you might happen to know. But I have news for you: unless you take that stand, I wouldn't like to forecast the misery of your tomorrow! Will you take that stand and say, *I will be separated unto the Lord. My life is in His hands. He has the best plan for me, and I trust Him with all my heart.*

*In Jesus' wonderful Name. Amen.*

