

Jehu – God’s Instrument of Zeal

2 Kings 9:1–13; 10:15–17

A. Introduction

1. God often raises up people for specific tasks & purposes, often unexpectedly.
2. In today's reading, we see a young prophet anoints Jehu at God’s command.
3. Jehu is set apart for a divine mission: to execute judgment on Ahab’s house.
4. His zeal was notable, but was also mixed with human ambition.
5. Zeal must be directed by God, tempered with humility, & anchored in obedience.

B. What We Know About Jehu

1. Jehu was Commander in the army of King Joram, in northern kingdom.
2. In 1 Kings 19:16, Elijah was told to make three appointments.
 - a. Hazael was to be anointed king over Syria.
 - b. Jehu was to be anointed king over Israel.
 - c. Elisha was to be anointed prophet in Elijah's place.
3. His calling was divine, not political — chosen for God’s purpose.
4. From a human perspective, in fact, he was a successful king.
5. His family founded the longest-lived dynasty of the northern kingdom.
6. He was used by God as an instrument of punishment to Ahab's evil dynasty.
7. He fiercely attacked & destroyed the practice of Baal worship.
8. He came close to being God's kind of king, but he settled for mediocrity.
9. He failed to follow through on the obedient actions that began his reign.
10. We also know that Jehu was a fast driver (2 Kings 9:20).

C. The Work God Gave Jehu to Do

1. We see Jehu’s courage & zeal displayed, once he receives God’s commission.
4. He boldly confronts and destroys King Joram (and Ahaziah).
5. He also executes judgment on Jezebel, & wipes out Baal worship from Israel.
6. Spiritual renewal requires removing idols and false worship.
7. God’s servants must not shrink back when it’s time to act.
8. God honours wholehearted obedience and boldness.
9. True zeal flows from conviction that we are acting under God’s direction.
13. Jehu aligns himself with Jehonadab, a godly man devoted to the Lord.
14. Together, they carry out God’s mission against Baal worship.
15. Partnerships matter—choose companions who strengthen your walk with God.
16. Our zeal must be joined with accountability and fellowship.
17. Jehu was a man of immediate action but without ultimate purpose.
18. His kingdom moved, but its destination was unclear.
19. He eliminated one form of idolatry, Baal worship, only to uphold another by continuing to worship the golden calves Jeroboam had set up.
20. He could have accomplished much more if he had been totally obedient.
21. With God your natural strengths and abilities will be used to their greatest potential for the greatest good.

D. Jehu Invites Jehonadab to Join Him in Completing His Work

1. Jehu's moving words are good words for anyone seeking to serve the Lord.
2. *"Is your heart right with me as my heart is with you?"* Are we together on this?
3. This is the first requirement for doing the work of God – being right with others.
4. Our hearts are not naturally right. Deceitful & desperately wicked (Jer. 17:9).
5. Evil proceeds from the heart (Matt. 15:19).
6. It is not all bad. There are great heart possibilities:
 - a. Christ changes us (2 Cor 5:17).
 - b. God can search the heart (Jer. 17:10) & discerns the heart (Heb. 4:12).
 - c. Christ can knock on the heart's door (Rev. 3:20).
 - d. We can believe with the heart (Rom. 10:10).
 - e. God's love can be shed abroad in the heart (Rom. 5:5).
 - f. God's Word can be hidden in the heart (Ps. 119:11).
 - g. God's gladness can be in the heart (Ps. 4:7).
7. So, what are the hindrances to having our hearts right?
8. Sin (Ps. 66:18); Heart Hardening (Rom. 2:5); Slow to believe (Luke 24:25).
9. When the heart is right, we are ready to serve God

E. Hands Together (v. 15)

1. *"Give me your hand" "Come & see my zeal for the LORD"*
2. A sincere invitation for working together
3. Examples & exhortations for working together power of a united church.
4. Good and pleasant (Ps. 133); one accord (Acts 2:1); one mind (Phil. 2:2)
5. This is the power of a united church.
6. We could use some holy zeal in the churches today
7. The church at Laodicea was lukewarm, a disappointment
8. We need churches that are zealous for Christ, on fire
9. Jehu destroyed Baal worship but left the golden calves untouched.
10. Partial obedience falls short of God's desire.
11. Though zealous against Baal, he still clung to Jeroboam's golden calves.
12. He had a reckless outlook on life that made him bold and prone to error
13. Was devoted to God only to the point that obedience served his own interests
14. Partial obedience is still disobedience. Zeal must be paired with faithfulness.

F. Conclusion / Application

1. Jehu teaches us that Courage and zeal are vital in serving God.
2. God chooses ordinary people to extraordinary assignments & purposes.
3. True reform requires complete obedience, not half-hearted devotion.
4. Are we only zealous in part, or fully surrendered to God's will?
5. Jehu shows us God can use even flawed instruments to accomplish His will.
6. His zeal was commendable, but his failure reminds us of need for total devotion.
7. Fierce commitment needs control because it can result in recklessness.
8. Obedience involves both action and direction. Rom 12:11
9. Are you zealous, obedient, and surrendered completely to Him?
10. Have you recognized God's call on your life?