

Good morning! I really like for people to like me. For many years I have been in a vocation that often involves conflict so sometimes I don't get what I like. Do you like to be popular, too? I think most people do. Do you want to know who was *not* popular? Old Testament prophets, that's who! They were forever bringing kings and leaders the bad news, while the false prophets always seemed to have the good news. Maybe that's one reason why younger prophets after travelled in groups! You'll occasionally see these groups of prophets wandering around and encountering prophets like Elijah and Elisha who travelled alone and speaking to them like a Greek chorus. This morning, let's read two passages from 1 Kings that are remarkably similar to each other:

So Obadiah went to tell Ahab that Elijah had come, and Ahab went out to meet Elijah. When Ahab saw him, he exclaimed, "So, is it really you, you troublemaker of Israel?" **1 Kings 18:16-17**

"So, my enemy, you have found me!" Ahab exclaimed to Elijah.
1 Kings 21:20

How would you like to get a greeting like that? These Old Testament prophets seemed to get that kind of reception everywhere they went. Jeremiah got it; Obadiah got it, too. If I received that kind of reception everywhere I went, I might begin to develop a fear of telling people the truth. Come to think of it, I do sometimes hesitate to tell people the truth--- the truth about sin and repentance. I think it's often this way for many Christians in our day. It's unpopular to tell people the truth but as RC Sproul has said, "People can't appreciate the Good News is until they've heard the bad news." We want people to love Jesus and have the freshness of heart we find in relationship with Him but the doorway into that life is repentance...and keeping that freshness means we must learn to live a lifestyle of repentance. How about you this morning? When was the last time you went to God in repentance and got things cleaned up in your relationship with Him?