

# Coach House Church BEACONS

---

## GETTING ON THE WRONG TRAIN

---

07 APRIL 2021

In the short period of time that the schools were open before Easter holidays on my commute to work I noticed quite a few confused travellers. If you have not guessed yet I work in a school and commute on a train. Watching people in the train station I sometimes make up stories about where they're going and what they're doing. Most of them are absorbed by their phones and they are functioning on autopilot because they know where they're going and what train to take. But there are exceptions, people that are making their journey for the first time and they don't really know which train will take them to where they need to be. In these occasions people are looking for someone to ask, normally a conductor or other station personnel. The more technical savvy people check it on their phones, what time the train comes and on what platform. Then there are the shy ones that do not want to ask anybody, they look at the departure boards and hope to see the location they need in the list of stops of the coming trains.

People that are not sure if they are on the right train, have a certain look on their faces. Of course, in our days, taking the wrong train is not that big of a deal; you just need to get off and go back. There are a few trains every hour and you don't need to buy another ticket... I didn't anyway.

On my commute, sometimes people ask for help from other commuters or from me. Most people are helpful and if able they do point the person in question in the right direction. If it's me that the directions are asked from, I feel somewhat nervous and a little anxious for the person as I would not want them to end up somewhere where they did not want to go. And I wouldn't want them to get off too soon or too late. For this reason, I repeat my directions before getting off.

Ask yourself this question, if you knew that someone was going the wrong way, would you warn them? Are we looking out for our fellow people? Physically and spiritually.

In the bible we are told that the Israelites had such a designated person appointed by God himself. These were the prophets. They were supposed to tell the people when they were going the wrong way and also when they were going against God's will. The prophets were God's mouthpiece used to guide his people.

Let's look at an example:

Elijah, was the most famous and dramatic of all Israel's prophets. We find accounts of his life in the book of 1 Kings. Elijah predicted the 3 year drought as the people were following idols. This drought ended on the mount Carmel in a dramatic showdown between the prophets of Baal and Elijah as the prophet of The Lord . let's read a few verses from 1 Kings 18:20-24

"So Ahab sent word throughout all Israel and assembled the prophets on Mount Carmel. Elijah went before the people and said, "How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him." But the people said nothing. Then Elijah said to them, "I am the only one of the Lord's prophets left, but Baal has four hundred and fifty prophets. Get two bulls for us. Let Baal's prophets choose one for themselves, and let them cut it into pieces and put it on the wood but not set fire to it. I will prepare the other bull and put it on the wood but not set fire to it. Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the Lord. The god who answers by fire—he is God." Then all the people said, "What you say is good." The prophets of Baal went first . they prepared their offering and started to call the name of their god.

And, yes ! Nothing happened .

The bible tells us the following in verse 27-29 : "At noon Elijah began to taunt them. "Shout louder!" he said. "Surely he is a god! Perhaps he is deep in thought, or busy, or traveling. Maybe he is sleeping and must be awakened." So they shouted louder and slashed themselves with swords and spears, as was their custom, until their blood flowed. Midday passed, and they continued their frantic prophesying until the time for the evening sacrifice. But there was no response, no one answered, no one paid attention."

When Elijah's turn came he asked the people to pour 12 water jars on the sacrifice. And then he prayed the following prayer :

"Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command. Answer me, Lord, answer me, so these people will know that you, Lord, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again." Then the fire of the Lord fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench."

1 Kings 18:36-38

When the people gathered there saw what happened, they repented and returned to the Lord recognising him as the only God.

Elijah was one of many prophets across the ages. Prophets were often isolated, seen as weird, outcasts and worst of all ignored when they were warning people of wrong doing and going against God.

Last weekend we celebrated Easter, the death and resurrection of Jesus. As a result of His sacrifice, God does not use prophets like in the olden days when they had to pass on the message to the king of the land. The worshipping and serving of The Lord, is not a nationwide decision any longer but an individual one. Each man and woman has to decide for themselves if they want to know and serve God. He does not want sacrifices on a mountain top or rituals, He wants a relationship. He wants you and me to come to him and recognise Him as Lord. He wants us to ask for forgiveness and to spend time in his presence getting to know Him. And when we know Him, he wants us - everyone of us - to tell others that they are going the wrong way. That they got on the wrong train and need to get off, and get on the right train, as their eternity depends on it.



---

## ALINA ADSHEAD



*Coach House Church*

leadership@coachhousechurch.org //

0161 432 5604

the coach house church, 222 wellington road north, stockport sk4 2qn