

## The Defeat of Ben-Hadad - 1 Kings 20:1-43

**Topics:** Advice, Anger, Answers, Bargaining, Children, Compromise, Consequences, Death, Delegation, Disobedience, Drinking, Escape, Freedom, God's Will, Judgment, Leadership, Partnerships, Peace, Preparation, Prophecy, Running, Strength, Submission, Swearing, War, Wealth, Wives, Youth

### Open It

1. When have you had to draw the line in terms of “knuckling under” to another person?
- \* 2. Why do we often prefer to be generous as opposed to exacting justice?
3. What unreasonable demands have been placed on you from time to time?

### Explore It

4. What was Ahab's predicament when Ben-Hadad besieged Samaria? (20:1-3)
5. After Ahab had agreed to be subservient to the king of Aram, what more was demanded of him? (20:4-6)
6. How did the elders of Israel advise Ahab to respond to the latest demand from Aram? (20:7-9)
7. What did Ben-Hadad swear to do to Ahab and Israel? (20:10)
8. Why did Ahab say, “One who puts on his armor should not boast like one who takes it off”? (20:11)
9. What did one of God's prophets tell Ahab about the outcome of the ensuing battle? (20:13)
10. How did Ahab develop the specific battle plan? (20:14-17)
11. What did Ben-Hadad assume about his ability to subdue Israel? (20:18)
12. What was the result of the battle between the young officers and the Aramean army? (20:19-21)
13. What warning did Ahab receive from the prophet after his victory? (20:22)
14. What false conclusion did the Arameans draw from their defeat in the first encounter? (20:23-27)
- \* 15. Why did God determine that He would cause the small army of Israel to defeat the large army of Arameans on the plains? (20:28)
16. What was the extent of the disaster that came upon the Arameans? (20:29-30)
- \* 17. What plan did Ben-Hadad's official come up with to save his life? (20:31-32)
- \* 18. What did Ahab do when he had Ben-Hadad at his mercy? (20:33-34)
19. What dramatic action did the prophet take in order to have an illustration when he confronted Ahab? (20:35-38)
20. What “parable” did the prophet tell to get Ahab to condemn himself? (20:39-40)
21. What sentence did the prophet pronounce on Ahab for not killing Ben-Hadad? (20:42)

### Get It

22. When God comes to the assistance of a nation, what can we reasonably conclude and not conclude about its leadership?
23. What sorts of things are human beings willing to die for rather than give up?
24. Why aren't numbers and weapons the only determinants of the outcome of a battle?
25. What does it tell us about Ahab's character that he would follow God's instructions only when it suited him?
26. When is it inconvenient for us to obey God?
27. Who is responsible for defending God's name when it is maligned?
- \* 28. What might have motivated Ahab to spare the rival king when he was at Ahab's mercy?
29. When is mercy not a good thing to grant?
30. Ultimately, how do we know that God is not a “live and let live” kind of God?
31. Why is it easier for us to see a failing in someone else than in ourselves?
- \* 32. In what areas do you find yourself tempted to compromise with the forces of evil?

## **Apply It**

33. What can you do to motivate yourself to obey God this week even when it's inconvenient?
- \* 34. In what situation do you need to avoid being unduly merciful or kind to someone in order to stop bad or evil acts?