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STRANGE BUT TRUE
STORIES IN THE BIBLE

Please warn
the congregation
about 2 Kings 2:23-25!

asking for a
smooth headed
friend

THE BOYS AND THE BEARS

2 KINGS 2:19-25

**This story is supposed to make us
pause and ask:**

What!?

As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire with horses of fire suddenly appeared and separated the two of them. Then Elijah went up into heaven in the whirlwind. As Elisha watched, he kept crying out, “My father, my father, the chariots and horsemen of Israel!”

2 Kings 2:11–12 CSB

At that time Joshua imposed this curse: The man who undertakes the rebuilding of this city, Jericho, is cursed before the LORD. He will lay its foundation at the cost of his firstborn; he will finish its gates at the cost of his youngest."

Joshua 6:26 CSB

During his reign, Hiel the Bethelite built Jericho. At the cost of Abiram his firstborn, he laid its foundation, and at the cost of Segub his youngest, he finished its gates, according to the word of the LORD he had spoken through Joshua son of Nun.

1 Kings 16:34 CSB

The men of the city said to Elisha, “My lord
can see that even though the city’s location is
good, the water is bad and the land unfruitful.”

2 Kings 2:19 CSB

He replied, “Bring me a new bowl and put salt in it.” After they had brought him one, Elisha went out to the spring, threw salt in it, and said, “This is what the LORD says: ‘I have healed this water. No longer will death or unfruitfulness result from it.’” Therefore, the water still remains healthy today according to the word that Elisha spoke.

2 Kings 2:20–22 CSB

From there Elisha went up to Bethel.

2 Kings 2:23 CSB

As he was walking up the path, some small boys came out of the city and jeered at him, chanting, “Go up, baldy! Go up, baldy!” He turned around, looked at them, and cursed them in the name of the LORD. Then two female bears came out of the woods and mauled forty-two of the children.

2 Kings 2:23–24 CSB

**This moment is about
establishing seriousness.**

**Other prophets were mocked to reject
God's authority:**

Elijah

1 KINGS 18

Jeremiah

JEREMIAH 20

He turned around, looked at them, and cursed them in the name of the LORD.

2 Kings 2:24 CSB

We mock God through:

Minimizing

Treating God's Word as less serious
than it claims to be

We mock God through:

Rationalizing

Explaining away obedience while
keeping a religious appearance

We mock God through:

Ignoring

**Hearing God's Word and choosing
not to engage with it at all**

We mock God through:

Minimizing

Rationalizing

Ignoring

**What's keeping me from the justice of
God that those mockers faced?**

Then two criminals were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left. Those who passed by were yelling insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, “You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross!” In the same way the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him and said, “He saved others, but he cannot save himself!

He is the King of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God rescue him now—if he takes pleasure in him! For he said, ‘I am the Son of God.’” In the same way even the criminals who were crucified with him taunted him.

Matthew 27:38–44 CSB