



Small Group Notes
Sermon: 18 September 2022

Vision Sunday
Pouring on Water

SCRIPTURE

1 Kings 18:20-39

OVERVIEW

Sunday was our annual Vision Sunday, where we spent some time looking back at what God has done over the past 12 months and dreaming about what he may do in the next.

During his talk Martin drew our focus on how God is calling us to make this a year where we 'Pour Water.'

This passage tells the story of Elijah and the prophets of Baal. We looked at two key ingredients to this story.

1. Stop Limping

Elijah stands before the people of Israel and calls them out. They need to choose between God and Baal - they can't follow both. Israel had compromised when they entered the promised land, not following God's command and leaving some of the nations there. This resulted in the people settling, compromising and ultimately worshipping false gods. God is a jealous God and wants true devotion from His people and so He sent Elijah to show the counterfeit nature of these other gods. We can similarly slip into living our spiritual lives with a limp. Loving God but also worshipping other things. This year, the Lord wants our total devotion.

2. Pour Water

After the prophets of Baal had failed and their god proven to be false, Elijah steps up. In order for God to be glorified we see him do 3 things.

Firstly he **repaired** the altar. Elijah began by

repairing the sacred. Repairing that which was devoted to the Lord and put an emphasis on the importance of dependence. God is calling us to repair the sacred, those things in our lives that we have let slide due to Covid, disappointment or sin.

Secondly he **built** the altar in the name of the Lord with 12 stones. These stones were stones of remembrance, declaring the faithfulness of God and what he had done. They also communicated unity, representing the 12 tribes of Israel, not a divided kingdom but a United family. God is calling us to build, build with remembrance, proclaiming the faithfulness and power of our God, and building for the unity of the gospel.

Thirdly, he wants to **pour on water**. Elijah did the most ridiculous thing when the goal is to have fire, but he did it because God had called him to. 3 times he poured water onto the altar to push himself into the impossible, so that the Lord would be glorified - we are called to do likewise. This year God wants us to willingly step into the impossible so we can see God glorified in our lives.

QUESTIONS

1. How do you think there might be a 'limp' in your spiritual life?
2. What repair work needs to happen in your life this year?
3. Where is God calling you to pour water?