

TWO OPTIONS

1 Kings 18:17–46

SERMON SUMMARY:

The time had come for Elijah to confront the wicked King Ahab and the prophets of Baal. God was about to display his power and authority over false gods. Today, we will consider how the message of Elijah applies to our lives as we seek to rid idols from our hearts.

SERMON OUTLINE:

God Wants It All

The Confrontation

Elijah confronted both king Ahab and the “fence-sitters.”

The Challenge

The God who could consume the altar with fire was the winner.

Elijah gave the prophets of Baal “home field advantage.”

The Result

The Lord sent fire from heaven and Elijah killed the false prophets.

Application

Beware of modern “fence-sitting” called syncretism.

Idols draw us deeper into self-destruction, Jesus draws us deeper into abundant life.

THINK ABOUT IT/TALK ABOUT IT:

- What does it mean to give God our all, and how does this challenge the idea of divided loyalties?
- What lessons can we learn from Elijah’s boldness and courage in standing against idolatry and compromise?
- Why do you think Elijah gave the false prophets “home field advantage?”
- Reflect on Elijah's actions following the display of God's power, including his execution of the false prophets. How do these actions reflect God's intolerance of idolatry?
- What is syncretism, and how does it manifest in modern Christianity? Discuss practical examples both in the American church and your own life.
- Take note of the prophets of Baal slashing themselves. Why does idol worship lead us to self-harm of various kinds? What does worship of Jesus lead to?