

Committed

1 Kings 18:20-21 | Hope City Church

CENTRAL QUESTION

Will you stay committed to God when you can't see what he is doing?

I. The Question on Mount Carmel (1 Kings 18:20-21)

- Ahab gathers Israel and 850 prophets to Mount Carmel: 450 of Baal and 400 of the groves
- Elijah asks the people how long they will waver between two opinions
- The people answer with silence
- The Alamo: a line in the sand and men choosing to stay and fight
- The double-minded man is unstable in all his ways
- God would rather have hot or cold than lukewarm
- The contest: Baal's prophets call all day with no answer. Elijah soaks the altar in the middle of a drought, prays, and fire falls
- Even Elijah felt he was the only one, and he ran when Jezebel threatened him

II. What Commitment Means

- It is more than dedication. It means to be shackled to something you can't see, with turning back no longer an option
- The world is committed to everything but God: careers, social media, likes, comfort, convenience, passing pleasures
- People wait in line for hours for concerts, ballgames, and a three-minute ride
- Once you are halfway through the line, you finish it
- The question is not what Jesus can do for me, but what I can do for the Lord
- A man in a restaurant asks, "Are you still preaching?" Some serve God only while it is popular

III. Committed in the Waiting: Rachel (Genesis 30)

- Rachel is loved by her husband, but her womb is closed while her sister Leah has child after child
- Children were tied to legacy, survival, and covenant blessing (Psalm 127:3)
- Her culture saw her as cursed. Her identity was shaken and her prayers were dry
- Sometimes you pray so long that your faith starts to tremble
- The waiting looks different for each of us: a lost son or daughter, a broken relationship, a job, a healing
- Bitterness begins to creep in when everyone else gets their answer
- No answer may mean "not yet"
- God was not punishing Rachel. He was preparing her

- Her son Joseph would be thrown in a pit and later deliver the nation
- An empty womb does not mean the promise is void
- Joseph's pit, slavery, betrayal, and prison did not cancel what God had spoken
- Like Paul, be persuaded that God is able to perform what he has promised

IV. Testimony: The Woman in Harlan County

- A grandmother drives a woman to church every Sunday. The woman has cancer that has eaten through her cheek and jaw
- She sings and testifies anyway. The church asks her to bandage it because it bothers people
- Each morning she rubs her cheek in front of the mirror and thanks God for her healing before she sees it
- One Sunday she is healed on the way to the car
- The grandmother says, "Honey, you're healed." She answers, "That's what I've been telling y'all."
- Stay committed even when you don't see it

V. Committing Yourself to God: Paul's Storm at Sea

- An angel tells Paul the ship will be lost but everyone will live
- The storm is so bad they can't tell day from night for days. The cargo goes overboard
- Paul tells the soldiers not to kill the prisoners because God has promised that all will live
- The crew lets go of the steering and commits themselves to God, and all reach shore
- Some of us have tried to steer our own ship and made a mess
- Go where God sends you. You may not be the richest person, but you will be happier than you have ever been

VI. The Call to Commit

- Busyness can leave you unable to breathe. The answer is to build the kingdom
- Press on even when you don't feel like it: pray more, give, support the church, and worship
- Invitation one: those who have never given their hearts to Christ
- Invitation two: those who made a profession but have not committed their lives, and are more worried about business, work, and time
- God wants you to succeed, but he wants to be first
- Hands raised in response

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION

1. Elijah asked, "How long will you waver?" Where are you going back and forth right now?
2. Commitment means turning back is no longer an option. What are you more committed to than God?
3. Rachel prayed and waited while others were blessed. Where has bitterness started to creep in for you?

4. What would it look like to thank God for an answer you can't see yet?

5. Where are you trying to steer your own ship instead of going where God is sending you?

Scripture References: 1 Kings 18:20-21 | Genesis 30 | Psalm 127:3 | James 1:8 | Revelation 3:16 | Acts 27 | Romans 4:21