



Sermon Discussion Guide

08.06.23 Message | Tyler Myers | 1 Kings 18:17-46

Key Scripture:

When Ahab saw Elijah, Ahab said to him, "Is it you, you troubler of Israel?" And he answered, "I have not troubled Israel, but you have, and your father's house, because you have abandoned the commandments of the LORD and followed the Baals. Now therefore send and gather all Israel to me at Mount Carmel, and the 450 prophets of Baal and the 400 prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table."

So Ahab sent to all the people of Israel and gathered the prophets together at Mount Carmel. And Elijah came near to all the people and said, "How long will you go limping between two different opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him." And the people did not answer him a word. Then Elijah said to the people, "I, even I only, am left a prophet of the LORD, but Baal's prophets are 450 men. Let two bulls be given to us, and let them choose one bull for themselves and cut it in pieces and lay it on the wood, but put no fire to it. And I will prepare the other bull and lay it on the wood and put no fire to it. And you call upon the name of your god, and I will call upon the name of the LORD, and the God who answers by fire, he is God." And all the people answered, "It is well spoken." Then Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "Choose for yourselves one bull and prepare it first, for you are many, and call upon the name of your god, but put no fire to it." And they took the bull that was given them, and they prepared it and called upon the name of Baal from morning until noon, saying, "O Baal, answer us!" But there was no voice, and no one answered. And they limped around the altar that they had made. And at noon Elijah mocked them, saying, "Cry aloud, for he is a god. Either he is musing, or he is relieving himself, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is asleep and must be awakened." And they cried aloud and cut themselves after their custom with swords and lances, until the blood gushed out upon them. And as midday passed, they raved on until the time of the offering of the oblation, but there was no voice. No one answered; no one paid attention.

Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come near to me." And all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD that had been thrown down. Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD came, saying, "Israel shall be your name," and with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD. And he made a trench about the altar, as great as would contain two seahs^[a] of seed. And he put the wood in order and cut the bull in pieces and laid it on the wood. And he said, "Fill four jars with water and pour it on the burnt offering and on the wood." And he said, "Do it a second time." And they did it a second time. And he said, "Do it a third time." And they did it a third time. And the water ran around the altar and filled the trench also with water.



And at the time of the offering of the oblation, Elijah the prophet came near and said, "O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel, and that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your word. Answer me, O LORD, answer me, that this people may know that you, O LORD, are God, and that you have turned their hearts back." Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, "The LORD, he is God; the LORD, he is God." And Elijah said to them, "Seize the prophets of Baal; let not one of them escape." And they seized them. And Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon and slaughtered them there.

And Elijah said to Ahab, "Go up, eat and drink, for there is a sound of the rushing of rain." So Ahab went up to eat and to drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Mount Carmel. And he bowed himself down on the earth and put his face between his knees. And he said to his servant, "Go up now, look toward the sea." And he went up and looked and said, "There is nothing." And he said, "Go again," seven times. And at the seventh time he said, "Behold, a little cloud like a man's hand is rising from the sea." And he said, "Go up, say to Ahab, 'Prepare your chariot and go down, lest the rain stop you.'" And in a little while the heavens grew black with clouds and wind, and there was a great rain. And Ahab rode and went to Jezreel. And the hand of the LORD was on Elijah, and he gathered up his garment and ran before Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.

- 1 Kings 18:17-46

Message Highlights:

- Be willing to approach the mountain where the Lord is found and idols are addressed.
- Elijah's name means "YHWH is my God" and has been given to him by design.
- We are challenged to confront the limp(s) in our own lives.
- Do we choose to listen for the voice of God, or do we still chase after other voices?

CONVERSATION STARTER

If you had the chance to take an extraordinary leap of faith with an all-or-nothing outcome, where success could bring you everything you've ever dreamed of, but failure meant starting over from scratch, what is significant enough in life that it would be worth making that kind of decision?

DISCUSS THE MESSAGE

How has the Spirit spoken to you through this section of God's Word?



THINK DEEPER (Does your group understand the passage?)

The events on Mount Carmel expose the double-minded, demonstrate unwavering faith and proclaim God's supremacy over the idols of this world. With that in mind:

What is the overall purpose of this text?

- What role does God's supernatural intervention play in this passage, and what does it reveal about his character and sovereignty?
- Reflect on the significance of Elijah's action in drenching the altar with water before calling on God. Why would Elijah do this? Was it an unnecessary risk or a demonstration of faith?
- Do you see a foreshadowing in this passage of future atonement? Explain.
- What does this passage tell us about Elijah's relationship with God and his dependence on God?

THINK LIFE CHANGE (Does your group recognize the personal implications for them as individuals?)

In 1 Kings 18:21, Elijah challenges those who place other things in front of God with the question, "How long will you go limping between two different opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him, but if Baal, then follow him."

- How does this passage challenge the status quo in your own life? How does it shape your understanding of a deeper trust in the Lord?
- What are some areas of your life in which you may be hindering your trust in the Lord? What parts of this world do you cling to in an unhealthy way?
- Contemplate and discuss how this passage emphasizes the importance of trusting God's provision in your life.

THINK ENGAGE (Does your group recognize the communal implications for us as a Gospel-centered community?)

Notice in 1 Kings 18:21 that Elijah brings together all the people of Israel and challenges them as a collective.

- How does 1 Kings 18 speak toward collective responsibility?
- How does the confrontation between Elijah and Ahab emphasize the importance of accountability and correction? Why or why is this not an effective or healthy approach to church life?
- This passage also gives us a picture of revival. What are the positive implications of a church that responds well to correction?



THINK EXPAND (Does your group recognize the missional implications for those we want to reach for Christ?)

According to this passage, how are we to approach being missional in everyday life?

- Does it speak to exclusive devotion? Why or why not?
- How does it speak to confronting false beliefs?
- How does this look in light of a deeper trust?
- How does this look in light of sacrifice?

THINK KINGDOM (Does your group understand the overarching Kingdom, that the work we do is bigger than ourselves?)

One of the church's goals is to make a Kingdom impact in the community we serve. To do so, we have a Biblical responsibility to trust the guidance of the Holy Spirit through leadership.

- How does 1 Kings 18 speak to the importance of prioritizing our relationship with God?
- How does the passage teach us to value the importance of seeking God's will in our lives?
- What does it say about being proclaimers of the Gospel?
- What are you going to do about it this week?