



Elijah: Who will you serve?
Home Fellowship Notes

Sermon Date: May 11, 2014

Scripture: I Kings 17, 18

Speaker: Pastor Mike Jacobson

Opener: Do you remember anything from your childhood that was hard to give up?

Introduction: Everyone worships something. We might not bow down before marble idols or animal statues. But every one of us elevates something in our lives to the status of "god." Some worship sports; others worship the reputations they carefully craft online. Some worship entertainment; others money, some a relationship. Throughout history, people have taken great steps to replace God with something else...Even atheists, who claim that God doesn't exist, elevate their ideas to a "god" status. The question is not *if* we are worshipping; the question is *what* we are worshipping.

Question? Why does God take idolatry so seriously? What is at stake in our flirtation with idol-worship?

Question? What are some "idols" that people exalt above God?

Question? Hesitating between two opinions is often a convenient way of delaying our submission to God. In what ways might our hesitation to give God our worship alert us to hidden idolatries in our life?

Question? Elijah had to take a major risk. He risked everything: his reputation and even his life. Are you willing to take a stand for truth and entrust your reputation to God if it will bring Him greater glory?

Question? What are some ways we can keep our hearts from drifting toward other gods?

Question? In 1 Kings 19:4 we read that Elijah was terribly depressed and wanted to die. This was after his "mountain top" experience on Mt Carmel. What do we learn about staying connected to God, esp. after a major spiritual victory or experience in our life?

Question? It's easy to criticize the people of Israel for their idolatry and following Baal. However, the reality is that in many ways we are just as guilty as they. What current day "idols" do you often find yourself following?

Question? What's so appealing to you about those "idols"? What do they promise you? How do they offer you hope?

Question? What does Elijah's prayer in I Kings 18:36,37 tell us about God and Elijah?

Read over and discuss the following lessons that can be learned from Elijah's life.

A. God is a jealous God.

B. There will always be more false prophets in the world than preachers of truth.

Stand up for what's right, even if you're standing alone!

C. Just because something is popular doesn't mean it is right.

"Right is right, even if everyone is against it; and wrong is wrong even if everyone is for it." William Pen

D. There is just one God and there is nothing He cannot do.

Remember God will never lead you somewhere without going before you... and He will never ask you to do anything without giving you the strength to do it.

E. Dethroning the idols in our life.

Question? How does the thought that God wants to do something "significantly big" in and through your life, make you feel?

Prayer needs