

Fix Your Eyes on Jesus' Identity: ""

Focus Passage: 1 Kings 18:1–40

Other Passages Referenced: Matthew 16; John 15; Ephesians 2:10;

Sermon Recap

1 Kings 18 and 19 give an account of the Prophet Elijah confronting Israel's idolatrous King Ahab and the false prophets of Baal, a fertility god. Because of Israel's idolatry, the LORD God had sent a drought on the land that lasted for year. Elijah went to the king and the people, confronting the false prophets of Baal with the power of the one true God. The LORD sent fire from heaven that consumed a bull offered on altar, that the prophets of Baal were unable to get their god to do, the LORD also sent rain to end the drought.

When Jezebel, Ahab's wife, learned of what had happened, she threatened to kill the Prophet Elijah as she had put to death other prophets of the LORD. In fear, Joshua wanted to give up and he even asked the LORD to take his life. However, the LORD sent an angel to Elijah, telling him to eat. Elijah was lodging in a cave when the LORD appeared to and asked, "What are you doing here?" The LORD told Elijah to stand before Him and after passing by in a strong wind, an earthquake, and a fire, the LORD spoke to Elijah with the sound of a low whisper, sending him to Damascus to anoint a new king of Syria (Hazeal), a new king of Israel (Jehu), and a new prophet (Elisha) to replace Elijah.

When we feel like giving up, we can extract "3 Gotta's" from the account of Elijah in 1 Kings 18–19. First, we've gotta return to our mission to which God has called us. Second, we've gotta invest in the next generation by training up our replacements. Third, we've gotta bring faith and life together by putting our beliefs about God into practice. The one thing that we can give to the cause that no one else can give is ourselves, as Jesus calls us to deny ourselves to follow Him.

Allow the Word to Speak — Be Hearers of the Word (About 1/3 of meeting time)

READ 1 Kings 18 and 19

Put the Word into Practice — Be Doers of the Word (About 1/3 of meeting time)

1. What do you need to do to stay focused on the mission?
2. Who from the next generation is God calling you to invest in?
3. How are you uniting what you believe with how you live? ... Ask the LORD to reveal any adjustments He'd like you to make.

The Big Question: What do you sense God's Spirit saying to you and what concrete action will you take in response? Share your answer with the group or another trusted Christian and ask them to pray for you.