

Elijah/Elisha – Standing Alone

Week 4 – The Showdown

Transition: Last week, the conflict between Elijah and Ahab intensified as the inevitable, impending showdown between Ahab/Baal and Elijah/Yahweh came into focus. In building up to the showdown (which is covered this week), we saw God's hand at work orchestrating events (and people) to make His glorious and unique sovereignty obvious.

Context: This week, we witness the dramatic showdown between Yahweh (and His prophet Elijah) and Baal (and "his" 450 prophets). This dramatic event was completely orchestrated by God to force the people of Israel to witness firsthand the stark contrast between Yahweh, the true, all-powerful God, and every other "limp" god.

Opening Questions:

- Have you ever witnessed/experienced a spiritual power-encounter between good (God) and evil? If so, share the story and how it affected you. If not, share the story of a spiritual power-encounter with which you're familiar.
- Why do you think God at times reveals Himself through spiritual power-encounters and other times doesn't (when, in your opinion, He could/should)?

Scripture/Storying: 1 Kings 18:19-46

Discipleship Questions:

- What's your overall reaction to this passage? What impression does it make on you and why?
- In v21, Elijah asks the people of Israel, "How long will you go limping between two different opinions?" In what ways do the people of God still do this today? Why do we do this? What can be done about it?
- Elijah explicitly mocks Baal (and indirectly, his followers) after the prophets of Baal's appeals go unanswered. What's your reaction to Elijah doing this? Can you think of any situations when it might be appropriate for a follower of Jesus to mock someone else's "god?" Explain your response.
- Before making his appeal to Yahweh, Elijah made a few preparations (v30-36a). What were they and why was his doing this first important? What kinds of preparations do you make before you make an appeal to God? Why?
- What do you learn from Elijah's prayer/appeal to Yahweh (36b-37)?
- Why does God reveal Himself through fire? What are some other similar biblical examples of God showing Himself through fire? What does the fire represent? How does God's consuming of the sacrifice picture the substitutionary atonement of Jesus Christ?
- What is the Holy Spirit teaching you through this story? How does it impact the way you think and live?

Prayer time: This week we are praying for Street Hope; a ministry Providence supports.

- Pray for the new staff starting at Garland Oaks and for residents as they acclimate to new faces.
- Pray for our residents in summer school.
- Pray for the person that will join the Street Hope education team next school year.
- Pray for our survivors—that this summer they will have opportunities to fully enjoy moments they have missed.