



The Story About the Fire

Message Companion

Elijah on Mt Carmel
1 Kings 18:19-40

Message Companion Contents



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This is a Message Companion to Pastor Ron's sermon entitled,

Elijah - Part 6 - The Story of the Fire

Read: 1 Kings 18:19-40

Take some time to go to our podcast "[Good News from The Grove](#)" and listen to this teaching. You can also go the Teachings page on our website www.PleasantGrove.info to access message. This is Part 6 of the series Elijah: Someone Like Me

Message Companion includes:

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Grace & Peace!

Pics of Mt Carmel

Pics of Mt Carmel



Main Scripture

1 Kings 18:19-40 (NKJV)

19 "Now therefore, send and gather all Israel to me on Mount Carmel, the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal, and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table." 20 So Ahab sent for all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together on Mount Carmel.

21 And Elijah came to all the people, and said, "How long will you falter between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him." But the people answered him not a word. 22 Then Elijah said to the people, "I alone am left a prophet of the LORD; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men. 23 "Therefore let them give us two bulls; and let them choose one bull for themselves, cut it in pieces, and lay it on the wood, but put no fire under it; and I will prepare the other bull, and lay it on the wood, but put no fire under it. 24 "Then you call on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD; and the God who answers by fire, He is God." So all the people answered and said, "It is well spoken."

25 Now Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "Choose one bull for yourselves and prepare it first, for you are many; and call on the name of your god, but put no fire under it." 26 So they took the bull which was given them, and they prepared it, and called on the name of Baal from morning even till noon, saying, "O Baal, hear us!" But there was no voice; no one answered. Then they leaped about the altar which they had made. 27 And so it was, at noon, that Elijah mocked them and said, "Cry aloud, for he is a god; either he is meditating, or he is busy, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is sleeping and must be awakened." 28 So they cried aloud, and cut themselves, as was their custom, with knives and lances, until the blood gushed out on them. 29 And when midday was past, they prophesied until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice. But there was no voice; no one answered, no one paid attention.

30 Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come near to me." So all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD that was broken down. 31 And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD had come, saying, "Israel shall be your name." 32 Then with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD; and he made a trench around the altar large enough to hold two seahs of seed. 33 And he put the wood in order, cut the bull in pieces, and laid it on the wood, and said, "Fill four waterpots with water, and pour it on the burnt sacrifice and on the wood." 34 Then 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. 35 So the water ran all around the altar; and he also filled the trench with water.

36 And it came to pass, at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near and said, "LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that You are God in Israel and I am Your servant, and that I have done all these things at Your word. 37 "Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that You are the LORD God, and that You have turned their hearts back to You again." 38 Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench. 39 Now when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, "The LORD, He is God! The LORD, He is God!" 40 And Elijah said to them, "Seize the prophets of Baal! Do not let one of them escape!" So they seized them; and Elijah brought them down to the Brook Kishon and executed them there.



Message Recap

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"The Story About the Fire," digs into the powerful account of Elijah's showdown with the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel.

Text: 1 Kings 18:19-40

The Prophet Elijah challenges the people of Israel to choose between serving God or serving Baal. The big question: "How long will you falter between two opinions?" It's like asking someone, "How long will you try to dance with two partners?" Elijah drops the gauntlet and declares that the God who answers by fire is the true God. In the story we see the stark contrast between the frantic, 6 hours-long effort of Baal's prophets and Elijah's brief, 25 second faith-filled prayer that resulted in God's dramatic response. The verdict on the false god is: no voice, no one answered, no one paid attention. On the other side, Elijah lifts up his voice to God and immediately fire fell like lightning from heaven and licked up the sacrifice, the water, the wood, the stones and some of the dirt. The people's response was, "The LORD! He is God! The LORD! He is God!" This story serves as a powerful reminder of God's supremacy and the importance of wholehearted devotion to Him.

Key Points:

The People, The Problem, The Purpose, The Prayer, The Power & The Possibilities

Key Takeaways:

1. Divided loyalty is unacceptable to God. We must choose to serve Him fully, avoiding the temptation to "dance with two partners."
2. True worship is centered on God, not ourselves. We gather to exalt Him and encourage one another, not to seek personal gain.
3. Revival begins with rebuilding our personal, family, Church and community "altars" = dedicated times and places for connecting with God and laying our lives down before God.

Consider how you can apply these principles in your own life. Are there areas where you've allowed your devotion to God to waver? Are you drifting away from God? How can you recommit & reconnect to God in wholehearted worship and service?

Let's pray for a fresh outpouring of God's Spirit in our lives, our families, our churches, our communities and nation. Revival fire needs to come and it needs to start in us. May we, like Elijah, be bold in our faith and witness the power of God at work in our midst. We must see something similar in our day for our sakes and the sake of the next generation.

This is the story of how the fire fell in the times of Elijah. May God give us our own stories about the fire of God falling upon us.

**Grace & Peace!
The LORD! He is God!**

Devotions

Devo #1

With All Your Heart

1 Kings 18:20-21

Elijah's challenge to the Israelites: "How long will you waver between two opinions?" It's like saying, "How long will you try to dance with two partners?" In our modern world, we often find ourselves torn between serving God and pursuing worldly desires. Just as the Israelites struggled with divided loyalties, we too must examine our hearts. Are we fully committed to God, or are we trying to dance with two partners? Today, reflect on areas of your life where you might be wavering or even drifting away. Ask God to help you choose Him wholeheartedly, remembering that He deserves our full devotion and allegiance. Jesus said, "And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the first commandment." (Mark 12:30)



Devo #2

Faith-filled Prayers

1 Kings 18:36-39

The contrast between the lengthy, frantic prayers of Baal's prophets and Elijah's brief, focused prayer is striking -- 6 hours vs. 30 seconds or less. While the pagan priests engaged in hours of shouting, dancing and self-mutilation, Elijah's simple, faith-filled words brought down fire from heaven. This reminds us that God responds to sincere, believing hearts rather than elaborate rituals or emotional displays. In your prayers today, focus on authenticity and trust. Speak to God as a child to a loving Father, knowing that He hears and responds to the cries of His children.

James 5:16: The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man (or woman) avails much. Your faith-filled prayers can touch Heaven and change things on the earth.



Devo #3

Rebuilding Broken Altars

1 Kings 18:30-32

Before calling down fire from heaven, Elijah first repaired the broken altar of the LORD. How did this happen? Why did this happen? This broken altar to God testifies of a nation of people who have forsaken and neglected the worship of The ONE True God. Elijah gathers up 12 stones, one for each of the tribes of Israel, and rebuilds the altar. This act symbolizes the need to restore our relationship with God before expecting His power to manifest in our lives. The altar is a place of sacrifice, worship and connecting with God. Are there "broken altars" in your life – neglected spiritual disciplines, unconfessed sins, or areas where you've drifted or disconnected from God? Today, take time to identify these areas and begin the process of rebuilding & restoring your connection with God. Remember, God is eager to meet you at the altar as you lay your life down as a sacrifice to God to do His will. At the altar is where you exchange your life for God's life. It's a holy place! It's a much needed place in all of our lives!



Devo #4

Standing Alone

1 Kings 18:22-24

Elijah stood alone against 450 prophets of Baal & 400 prophets of Asherah. He was confident in God's power and truth. In our increasingly secular world, we often are outnumbered or maybe even isolated in our faith in Jesus. Elijah's courage reminds us that one person aligned with God is more powerful than any opposing force, human or demonic. Some times we are called to a tough place of standing for Christ in the face of opposition and persecution. Today, consider areas in your life where you might need to take a stand for God, even if you feel alone. Draw strength from knowing that the LORD is with you, just as He was with Elijah. Pray for Holy Spirit to give you strength and wisdom to never be ashamed of Jesus. May you stand for Christ, even if you have to stand alone.



Devo #5

Transforming Fire

Acts 2:1-4

The fire that fell on Elijah's sacrifice prefigures the Holy Spirit fire that fell at Pentecost, igniting the early church. Just as the Israelites witnessed God's power on Mount Carmel, we too are called to experience God's transforming fire in the person and work of The Holy Spirit. Throughout the Scriptures, the fire of God is symbolic of His presence & power. Jesus spoke about the wonderful blessing about the very Spirit of God living in and through the life of the believer. Paul encourages us to "be filled with the Spirit." Today, pray for a fresh outpouring of God's Spirit in your life and in your local church. Ask God to kindle a fire of revival that will draw you and others to Christ. He is still the God who answers by fire!



Questions for Thought

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- 01 How can we identify and address the 'divided hearts' or areas of compromise in our own lives, as Elijah challenged the Israelites?

- 02 In what ways might modern society exert 'political and social pressure' that tempts Christians to compromise their faith, and how can we resist this?

- 03 How can we ensure our worship, both personal and corporate, remains God-centered rather than self-centered in today's culture?

- 04 What 'altars' in our lives might need rebuilding, and how can we practically go about restoring those places of connection with God?

- 05 How might the contrast between the lengthy, dramatic prayers of Baal's prophets and Elijah's brief, powerful prayer inform our own approach to prayer?

- 06 In what ways can we, as individuals or as a church, demonstrate God's power in our communities without resorting to 'man-made fire' or artificial hype?

- 07 How can we cultivate the kind of bold faith Elijah displayed, willing to put God's power to the test in public ways?

- 08 What might a modern-day 'showdown at Mount Carmel' look like in our cultural context, and how can we prepare ourselves for such moments?

- 09 How can we balance Elijah's uncompromising stance against false worship with Jesus' call to love our enemies in today's pluralistic society?

- 10 What steps can we take to ignite a spiritual revival in our own lives, families, and communities that reflects the transformative power seen in Elijah's story?

Additional Scriptures

For Further Study

Additional Scriptures

Here are some Scripture references mentioned or alluded to in the message, along with some relevant verses for general themes discussed:

1. 1 Kings 18:19-40 - main passage
 2. James 1:8 - being double-minded
 3. Luke 16:13 - "No servant can serve two masters..."
 4. Mark 12:30, Matthew 22:37, Luke 10:27) - "Love the Lord your God with all your heart..."
 5. Matthew 16:24 - Jesus calls disciples to deny themselves
 6. Matthew 7:13-14 - the narrow way
 7. James 5:16 - "effectual fervent prayer"
 8. Judges 6:13 - Gideon asking where the miracles are
-

General themes with relevant verses:

1. Worship and devotion to God:

- Psalm 95:6
- John 4:23-24

2. Revival and turning back to God:

- 2 Chronicles 7:14
- Joel 2:12-13

3. God's power and miracles:

- Acts 2
- Mark 16:17-18

4. The importance of prayer:

- 1 Thessalonians 5:17
- Philippians 4:6-7

5. Spiritual warfare and standing firm in faith:

- Ephesians 6:10-18
- 1 Peter 5:8-9



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