

Great Moments in Faith: Elijah and the Priests of Baal

Passage: 1 Kings 18:16-40 Elijah and the Priests of Baal

Background: The great kings are gone. The people have been falling away into the worship of Baal, one of the Canaanite gods. The queen has had all of God's priests and prophets killed. God has brought three years of famine in an already desert land as punishment for their sins. This encounter happens when God tells Elijah that there will be rain again if Elijah confronts the king and his false priests.

Don't Miss: Elijah is not doing this for fun, but because God promised the drought would end. Elijah has been hiding and in terror, all his friends are dead. This took extreme love in the Israelites and faith in God for Elijah to risk his life for the people to have rain. His mocking of Baal in the face of his enemies is also an incredible feat.

What would this have been like if you put yourself in the shoes of....

Elijah: You have watched your friends die and have lived alone and in hiding for three years. Now you are facing 250-900 priests alone, representing the God that these people rejected generations before.

Ahab: You have never followed God, always thought of God as weak and pathetic. Now the man you have been hunting to kill shows up and does this show.

The Priests of Baal: You've won. The god you serve is master of the land and everyone else has been killed or driven out. Now you've been shown you have been wrong all your life.

The Israelites: You have been worshipping both Baal and God for years, but mainly Baal lately since Baal seems more powerful. How can you choose which God without proof?

Questions:

- The people of Israel were offered a choice of gods before this whole event started. Why did they say nothing at all? What do we say?
- Did the people ever realize that Elijah was doing this so they could have rain in the desert again?
- When have you felt like Elijah and been seemingly completely alone in your faith? How is modern America a lot like Israel in Elijah's day?
- Why do you think God worked so obviously that day and not so many other days?
- Elijah didn't do anything other than the evening sacrifice and make a prayer. How can our normal daily actions of love and devotion to God prepare us for our own trials in life?

The Sticking Points (Take-Away Talking Points):

- Bad things happening does not mean God is not with you or not in control.
- Sometimes everything seems extremely out of control and you feel like you are all alone. God is still there and if you hold onto that faith God will still be served even through just you.
- We have to choose which side we're on eventually. There will always be more people choosing to let anything but God guide them. It will be up to you to choose whether you will follow the pack or follow your God.