



RCC Phoenix – 10.11.20 – Doing Things God’s Way (Week 3)

After 3 ½ years of drought, the Lord instructs Elijah to visit King Ahab and let him know the Lord will soon be sending rain. On the way to meet King Ahab, Elijah meets a God-honoring man who worked for Ahab named Obadiah.

1 Kings 18:3-4 NLT

So Ahab summoned Obadiah, who was in charge of the palace. (Obadiah was a devoted follower of the Lord. Once when Jezebel had tried to kill all the Lord’s prophets, Obadiah had hidden 100 of them in two caves. He put fifty prophets in each cave and supplied them with food and water.)

1 Kings 18:16-40 NLT

So Obadiah went to tell Ahab that Elijah had come, and Ahab went out to meet Elijah. When Ahab saw him, he exclaimed, “So, is it really you, you troublemaker of Israel?” “I have made no trouble for Israel,” Elijah replied. “You and your family are the troublemakers, for you have refused to obey the commands of the Lord and have worshiped the images of Baal instead. Now summon all Israel to join me at Mount Carmel, along with the 450 prophets of Baal and the 400 prophets of Asherah who are supported by Jezebel.”

So Ahab summoned all the people of Israel and the prophets to Mount Carmel. Then Elijah stood in front of them and said, “How much longer will you waver, hobbling between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him! But if Baal is God, then follow him!” But the people were completely silent.

Then Elijah said to them, “I am the only prophet of the Lord who is left, but Baal has 450 prophets. Now bring two bulls. The prophets of Baal may choose whichever one they wish and cut it into pieces and lay it on the wood of their altar, but without setting fire to it. I will prepare the other bull and lay it on the wood on the altar, but not set fire to it. Then call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the Lord. The god who answers by setting fire to the wood is the true God!” And all the people agreed.

Then Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, “You go first, for there are many of you. Choose one of the bulls and prepare it and call on the name of your god. But do not set fire to the wood.” So they prepared one of the bulls and placed it on the altar. Then they called on the name of Baal from morning until noontime, shouting, “O Baal, answer us!” But there was no reply of any kind. Then they danced, hobbling around the altar they had made.

About noontime Elijah began mocking them. “You’ll have to shout louder,” he scoffed, “for surely he is a god! Perhaps he is daydreaming, or is relieving himself. Or maybe he is away on a trip, or is asleep and needs to be wakened!” So they shouted louder, and following their normal custom, they cut themselves with knives and swords until the blood gushed out. They raved all afternoon until the time of the evening sacrifice, but still there was no sound, no reply, no response.

Then Elijah called to the people, "Come over here!" They all crowded around him as he repaired the altar of the Lord that had been torn down. He took twelve stones, one to represent each of the tribes of Israel, and he used the stones to rebuild the altar in the name of the Lord. Then he dug a trench around the altar large enough to hold about three gallons. He piled wood on the altar, cut the bull into pieces, and laid the pieces on the wood. Then he said, "Fill four large jars with water, and pour the water over the offering and the wood." After they had done this, he said, "Do the same thing again!" And when they were finished, he said, "Now do it a third time!" So they did as he said, and the water ran around the altar and even filled the trench.

At the usual time for offering the evening sacrifice, Elijah the prophet walked up to the altar and prayed, "O Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, prove today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant. Prove that I have done all this at your command. O Lord, answer me! Answer me so these people will know that you, O Lord, are God and that you have brought them back to yourself."

Immediately the fire of the Lord flashed down from heaven and burned up the young bull, the wood, the stones, and the dust. It even licked up all the water in the trench! And when all the people saw it, they fell face down on the ground and cried out, "The Lord—he is God! Yes, the Lord is God!" Then Elijah commanded, "Seize all the prophets of Baal. Don't let a single one escape!" So the people seized them all, and Elijah took them down to the Kishon Valley and killed them there.

1. Doing Things God's Way Requires _____

Obadiah is _____ the most wicked King in Israel's history.

But God, in His sovereignty, has _____ Obadiah in a challenging situation.

God put him in the _____ of evil and chaos.

Our culture promotes comfort & pleasure as the main pursuits of life.

OUR CULTURE SAYS:

- Do what makes you happy.
- Who are we to tell others they can't live their own lifestyle?
- Just do what you want.

SCRIPTURE SAYS:

- Disciples of Christ pursue what the Lord wants.
- Disciples of Christ submit to His direction.
- Disciples of Christ deny selfish desires and strive for what God wants.

If we are confident the Lord has placed us in a specific environment, we need to endure in that place until the Lord _____ us to move.

This does not mean we glorify _____ or believe that we earn special access to God through acts of self-discipline.

Colossians 2:20-23

You have died with Christ, and he has set you free from the spiritual powers of this world. So why do you keep on following the rules of the world, such as, “Don’t handle! Don’t taste! Don’t touch!”? Such rules are mere human teachings about things that deteriorate as we use them. These rules may seem wise because they require strong devotion, pious self-denial, and severe bodily discipline. But they provide no help in conquering a person’s evil desires.

Obadiah examples this perfectly and is in the prime place to save the life of 100 of the Lord’s prophets.

2. Doing Things God’s Way Requires _____

1 Kings 18:19

“Now summon all Israel to join me at Mount Carmel...”

God _____ Mount Carmel on Purpose.

Mount Carmel was a symbol of _____ and _____ to many pagan religions.

But this beautiful mountain is most assuredly _____ from experiencing no rain or dew for 3 ½ years.

God is showing His people that the false god’s they are worshipping are _____.

The false gods of Asherah & Baal have been given the _____ for God’s blessings and provision to His people.

Question: Do we give credit to anything other than God for His blessings and provision to us?

This is not some moment for God to merely prove His strength and show Israel their weakness compared to Him. It is a moment for God’s people to realize their _____ has been misplaced.

Question: Have we ever had a moment when we were humbled by the power and love of God?

3. Doing Things God’s Way Requires _____

1 Kings 18:36-37 NLT

At the usual time for offering the evening sacrifice, Elijah the prophet walked up to the altar and prayed, “O Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, prove today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant. Prove that I have done all this at your command. O Lord, answer me! Answer me so these people will know that you, O Lord, are God and that you have brought them back to yourself.”

God’s entire purpose was to bring the _____ of His people back to Him.

We like the “winning” part of Elijah’s showdown with the prophets of Baal because our _____ nature wants to be seen as right and powerful by others.

But God has no need for the _____ of man. He is the creator of all that is right and all power resides in Him.

Disciples of Christ are not to have an _____ attitude to those who are unsaved. We are to be an example of God's grace.

This entire 3½ year ordeal finally comes to a head.

1 Kings 18:39-40 NLT

And when all the people saw it, they fell face down on the ground and cried out, "The Lord—he is God! Yes, the Lord is God!" Then Elijah commanded, "Seize all the prophets of Baal. Don't let a single one escape!" So the people seized them all, and Elijah took them down to the Kishon Valley and killed them there.

One commentator gave insight that this phrase literally translated says, "JEHOVAH, He is the God! JEHOVAH, He is the God! Baal is not the God; Jehovah alone is the God of Israel."

The people of Israel have _____ of their idol worship and their hearts have returned to Jehovah.

What was the purpose of killing the false prophets?

The Lord is instructing His people to put to _____ anything and everything they serve other than Him.

_____ and _____ remain the goal of our Lord today.

1 Timothy 2:1-4 NLT

"I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them. Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity. This is good and pleases God our Savior, *who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth.*"

Doing things God's way requires _____, _____ & _____.