

## MEN'S LIFE BLOOMINGTON & GOD @ WORK

Tuesday, May 26, 2015

# Elijah on Mount Carmel

## 1 Kings 18:16-40

### Major Segments:

- The Challenge: Baal vs God
- Calling to Baal and Elijah's Mocking
- Meticulous Preparation to Set the Stage
- Dramatic Demonstration of God's Power in Consuming the Alter

### Segment Questions:

- Why did Ahab have such confidence in his prophets?  
In what ways do some of our current leaders act the same way?
- What makes this a powerful statement? - "How long will you go back and forth? If the Lord is God, follow Him. If Baal is God, follow him."  
Why do you think the next line in the story says: *The people didn't say anything, but just looked at the prophet?*
- When things were not going well for Ahab's prophets, Elijah openly mocked them - even going so far as saying their god may be on the toilet. What does this say about Elijah's character? Did he go too far? If you put this in a contemporary context and it was being broadcasted live, what do you think the commentators would have been saying about Elijah? (*Think politically correct*)
- Describe what you think it would have been like to be one of the observers of what Elijah did next. In what ways do his actions strike a contrast with Ahab's prophets?
- Analyze the prayer Elijah prayed. "*Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Let everyone know that you are God, and I'm your servant. Answer me so these people will turn back to you!*" What are some things we learn from this prayer?
- Early in this story it states that Elijah is **one** prophet against **450**. Yet this story closes by saying that Elijah "killed them all." How in the world did he pull that off?

### Action Questions:

- It really seems like the people got sucked into believing in Baal because they knew nothing else. In what ways are Christians today vulnerable to being sucked into popular, but wrong beliefs?
- What is a gutsy thing you've done for God or seen someone do? What are some of the similar principles that carry over?
- Think of one person in your life that is far from God that you can pray for. What can you do to create room for God to show Himself in his or her life? Commit to praying for that person this week, and invite them to church this weekend.

Link to Elijah Video: <https://vimeo.com/60610455>

## 1 Kings 18:16-40

From: [www.btstories.com](http://www.btstories.com)

As soon as the king saw Elijah, he said, "So, there is the man who's destroyed Israel."

Elijah said, "No, it's not me, but you who has destroyed Israel. You've turned your back on the Lord and are serving Baal. Tell Israel to meet me on Mount Carmel. Bring the prophets of Baal and Asherah, the ones who eat at Jezebel's table."

So Ahab told the Israelites to gather at Mount Carmel, along with the prophets. Once everyone was there, Elijah said to the people, "How long will you go back and forth? If the Lord is God, follow Him. If Baal is God, follow him." The people didn't say anything, but just looked at the prophet.

He said. "I stand here as only one prophet of the Lord, but look, there are 450 prophets of Baal. Give us two bulls. They'll take one, prepare it for sacrifice, and put it on top of the wood. But they won't put fire on the wood. I'll do the same. They will call on the name of their god, and I will call on the name of the Lord. The God who lights the fire, He is God."

The people said. "Yes. That sounds fair."

Elijah said to the prophets of Baal. "You go first."

So they prepared the bull, and called on the name of Baal. They prayed all morning until noon. They danced around the altar, but nothing happened.

Elijah started mocking them. "Maybe you should shout louder! Your god might be sleeping, and you need to wake him up! Maybe he's gone to the toilet." They shouted loudly, and cut themselves, until blood gushed out. They kept this up all afternoon, but nothing happened.

Finally Elijah built an altar with twelve stones, one for each tribe of Israel. He dug a trench around the altar, and put the wood on it. He then placed the bull on top of the wood.

He said to the people, "Go get some water and pour it on the sacrifice." Once they had done this, he told them to do it again. After they had done it a second time, he told them to do it a third time. Once they were done, the altar was totally wet, and the trench was full of water.

Elijah then walked up to the altar and prayed. "Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Let everyone know that you are God, and I'm your servant. Answer me so these people will turn back to you!"

Suddenly, fire fell down from heaven and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, and the twelve stones. It even licked up the water that was in the trench. The people fell down and shouted, "The Lord, he is God! The Lord, he is God!"

Elijah ordered, "Grab the prophets of Baal! Don't let any of them escape." The people grabbed the prophets of Baal, and Elijah killed all of them.