

“Do You Know Who You Are Calling?”

1 Kings 18:17-40... (THE PERFECT HUSBAND)

Ahab was the most evil and wicked king the nation of Israel had ever had. **1 Kings 16:33** “*And Ahab made a grove; and Ahab did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel that were before him*” He’s the king that brought in Baal worship under his rule and had led the nation of Israel away from God.

Meanwhile, God was putting Elijah through the “Paces of Faith-Building” getting him ready to be His Prophet. Out of nowhere – Elijah the Tishbite just shows up in a blaze of glory. And... In perfect timing, God sent Elijah to force the nation of Israel to, “make up their minds” whom they would serve. God showed the nation of Israel that He is Jehovah God and they must make a choice that day, whom they would serve! Their response is nothing short of: inspiring and convincing... **V: 39**.

So basically, you had guys that thought they were “calling-on” a real “god.” Then... a nation that thought they could follow (or “call-on”) our Real God and a fake “god”... and finally, a prophet of God (*who made the “right-call!”*) who would set things straight! Elijah is about to experience the truth that one plus God is THE majority.

I. V. 21 – The Problem.

A. They had a Divided Allegiance – V. 21 – “...how long halt ye between two opinions?”

1. On one side of the fence, they loved the physical rush and the fleshly appeal of Baal worship. Elijah described their condition (**HEB: paw-sakh'** – “halt ye between”) means: to hop, skip over, hesitate, leap, or to pass over.
2. But on the other side, they enjoyed their name as God's people, “*They were riding the fence!*”

B. They had a Disgusting Atmosphere! V. 21 – “...but if baal, follow him...”

1. Paganism: Baal was the primary “god” of the Canaanites. He, along with another, “*Ashtoreth*” was worshiped through sickening practices as human sacrifice and sexual immorality. In some places, women were forced to serve as prostitutes in the groves!
2. Pacifism: These people had fallen a long way from the Conquering, Courageous, Jehovah-Honoring nation that had come into Canaan hundreds of years before. Now they are a politically divided and apostate nation.

C. They had a Demand from All-Mighty God! V.21 – “...if the Lord be God, follow Him...”

1. Elijah didn’t mix words! His message is straight to the point. Israel, YOU have to make a choice! Your compromising is an insult to God!
2. Israel didn’t mind looking like idiots! You know, this has got to be the biggest “bone-head” move of the century! I mean these people had the audacity to expect God to prove Himself to them. After all the “Super-sized - God-sized” things He had done for them over the years and still they are willing to give Baal a chance to compete with God.

II. V. 25-38 – The Power of God.

A. The Foolish Pagans.

1. **V. 25-26, 28 – The Circus**: All day long the prophets of Baal prayed and cried out to their god. Result: NOTHING!
2. **V. 27 – The Comedy**: Elijah saw what they were doing and mocked them, v. 27. This sent them into an electric frenzy.
3. **V. 29 – The Conclusion**: when the dust settled, Baal was still as dead as he had ever been and they stood humiliated and defeated before the lone prophet of God. **Proverbs 16:25** “There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.”

B. V. 30-37 – The Faithful Prophet

1. **V. 30 – He repaired the altar of God.**
 - a. It's the first step towards God's Blessings, again.
 - b. Do we need to repair our "personal" altar of devotions; spending time with God?
2. **V. 31 – He chose 12 stones.**
 - a. To remind Israel of their Unity – they were one nation in the eyes of God.
 - b. Do we harbor distancing grudges with another believer? We are ONE in CHRIST.
3. **V. 33b – 34 – He used 4 barrels of water / 3 times:** to saturate the Sacrifice before the Lord.
 - a. He did this to remove all doubts as to Who was to get the glory for what was about to happen.
 - b. Do we allow the MUCH Washing Water of God's Word to cleanse you each day? **Eph 5:25-27.**
4. **V. 36-37 – He Prayed!**
 - a. He prayed a simple 63 word prayer and the fire of God fell from Heaven and consumed every part of the sacrifice, the altar, the water in the trench and even the dust round about = nothing but a dark spot on the ground!
 - b. Elijah knew that this "Showdown at Mt. Carmel" was "no-stretch" for the Lord. Elijah was willing to put his life on the line because he believed... **V. 36 "at thy Word."** God's Word!

VIP: If you want to be a person that sees the "Faithfulness of the Lord" – Trust His Word!