

April 25, 2021
The Lord, He is God



Key Scriptures

1Ti 6:10 NASB *For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.*

1Ki 18:19 *"Now then send and gather to me all Israel at Mount Carmel, together with 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of the Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table."*

1Ki 18:21-22 *Elijah came near to all the people and said, "How long will you hesitate between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him." But the people did not answer him a word. (22) Then Elijah said to the people, "I alone am left a prophet of the LORD, but Baal's prophets are 450 men.*

1Ki 18:24 *"Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the LORD, and the God who answers by fire, He is God." And all the people said, "That is a good idea."*

1Ki 18:26-29 *Then they took the ox which was given them and they prepared it and called on the name of Baal from morning until noon saying, "O Baal, answer us." But there was no voice and no one answered. And they leaped about the altar which they made. (27) It came about at noon, that Elijah mocked them and said, "Call out with a loud voice, for he is a god; either he is occupied or gone aside, or is on a journey, or perhaps he is asleep and needs to be awakened." (28) So they cried with a loud voice and cut themselves according to their custom with swords and lances until the blood gushed out on them. (29) When midday was past, they raved until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice; but there was no voice, no one answered, and no one paid attention.*

1Ki 18:36 *At the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, Elijah the prophet came near and said, "O LORD*

1Ki 18:38-39 NASB *Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. (39) When all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, "The LORD, He is God; the LORD, He is God."*

The Big Point:

When we follow God's directions, life is better. Elijah wanted Israel to stop seeking prosperity by following other gods. He proved to them that false gods will not bring the life they are hoping for and that only Yahweh is the true living God. We are still living in a time when people are trying to mix serving God and ungodly desires. God is still sending fire on false desires to show he is the real, true God.

Important points from the message:

- Syncretism: Trying to practice two religions at the same time.
- True rest is found in God's ways.
- Imperfect faith is better than perfect religion.

Important quote:

- *I want a 'follow the resurrected Jesus' Christianity.*
- *Just because you have issues doesn't mean you aren't right with God.*
- *We need to quit trying to control every facet of our lives. We need to trust Jesus.*

Questions that may get your group talking.

- Which will you choose? The real God of the Bible or things that we feel like will make us more secure?
- Were you refreshed in service this Sunday?
- What new ways have you thought of to be generous?

Questions that may get your group thinking.

- Pastor Carl said, "we need the real stuff that works." What is some real advice or real breakthrough you've experienced that has been helpful that you could share about?
- Which will you choose? The real God of the Bible or things that we feel like will make us more secure?
- Are there areas of your life where you have tried to control and not trusted God? What will you do now?_Talk about a way that community has been safety for you - not just recreation.
- Have you felt that money would solve your problems and found out that was not true?

Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Spend some quiet time with Jesus and ask Him to show you areas in your life He wants you to give up control.
- When you feel fearful, confess that God has the best for you and His ways are higher than yours.