

Sunday 9th June 2013

Elijah Part 10

We left Elijah standing alone, toe to toe against Ahab.

Ahab, an idolatrous King who was worse than all the previous kings put together. Here he stood blaming Elijah for everything that had gone wrong. The famine, decease, Death, hostility.

Elijah (The Lord is my God) standing his ground and speaks the truth. Tells Ahab that he has brought this on himself. It was a result of his living, his choices.

What we also learned was that at times like this it was "OK" to be lost for words. That our testimony in Christ will speak for us.

We are about to witness a moment in Elijah's life that is a high point. We will see him full of confidence, assurance and courage. All because he trusted God. He had been through Ch Erith and Zarephath.

He was about to have a good day.

When we can say " The Lord is my God" , we too can have a good day.

My prayer tonight is that God will speak to us as we look at the next chapter in Elijah's journey. It could be ours.

Let's read.

1 Kings 18:17-40 Read

The showdown begins.

Elijah was ready to prove the God of heaven. This was not to be a battle of the flesh, but a showdown between idolatry and the living God.

2 Corin 10:3-5 Read

The first thing that I want to bring out today is: Don't get personal when you try to pull down stronghold that bind family, friends and colleges.

Someone may get hurt. You are trying to pull down strongholds and not people. At no point was Elijah abusive, offensive or physical towards anyone. He was going to let God do the talking for him. Maybe we should learn from this.

Standing Alone:

Verses 19/20 Read

Elijah stands alone before the king with a plan. A plan that he would have received from spending time in the " **Secret Place** " He knows what he is doing and he needs the biggest audience he can gather. All Israel. WOW what an evangelist, a crowd puller.

The heart of any Pastor, Prophet, Evangelist, Teacher surely must be to pull the biggest crowd. The more that hear, the more that could be saved.

EG: Weddings, Funerals and any other public service events. Problem is the more that come. The more chance you get of being outnumbered and so the battle begins.

Ever felt outnumbered as if you are the only one ... That is where the battle is, that is where God wants you and that is where He is.

Verse 21 And Elijah came to all the people and said, How long will you halt between two opinions? If the Lord be God, follow Him, but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word.

Elijah addresses the crowd, the people who had become half hearted, full of compromise, indecisive even divided.

Halt: Hop, Skip over, To Hesitate, To be Limp, To Dance, To become Lamé, To Pass Over.

How long are you going to avoid making a decision for God, for Christ?

Indecision is a stumbling block and will keep you exactly where the devil wants you to be. Never full committed.

Spiritul Okey Kokey!!

If this is you today Christian, then pick one or the other. Make your mind up time.

Mathew 6:24 Read

Mammon: Things of this world, particularly wealth and possessions they can become your idols.

“ but the people did not answer him a word”

Maybe all it would have taken was one, But not one responded to Elijah. It was there nature, a measure of their commitment just to blend in and not stand out.

God is looking for the ones who will come out of the crowd and say, " I've made my mind up, it's you Lord.

I wondered at this point how Elijah must have felt. Maybe a quite nod of the head, A Tut Tut.. Probably wanted to go on a preach a message or share his testimony of what God did through Cherith, Zarephath and the raising of the widows son.

Any preacher would be happy at a couple of decisions at this point. Maybe Elijah would have been happy if a few had just joined him for support.

Gods Plan however was for the lot.

God wanted every person gathered to witness something miraculous and choose him and he had a plan to bring that about.

EG; Feeding of the five thousand. Sat down in groups of 50. All witnessed a miracle on that day.

I believe that God has a plan and purpose for mankind that through the preaching of the Gospel will see all mankind saved.

Isaiah 45: 17-25 Read

Romans 14:11 Read

Phillip 2:10-11 Read

Can you see it... By faith.. we sing " I see the King of glory"

Read the verses.

Tonight as we close I want to ask you a question.

Verse 21 And Elijah came to all the people and said,
How long will you halt between two opinions? If the Lord be God, follow Him, but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word.

Don't question whether or not you believe, but where is your commitment. Maybe tonight you could cross the line of indecision and go for God.

The strongest words that were given to the seven churches mentioned in the book of Revelation, ch 2 and 3, were given to the church at Laodicea. The reason is clear: They were uncommitted. They were neither hot nor cold." **I know your deeds, that you are neither hot nor cold; I would that you were hot or cold. So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth"**

Perhaps you have been a Christian for years but have never truly been committed to Him. Stop hiding your love for him, let it out. Fearlessly share your faith with your family, friends and in your business. Your school, your neighbours.

Church, we do not have to wait for the fire of God to come before we change, we can chose today.