

I Kings 18:20-40

3 Realizations Of Experiencing The Meaningful Presence Of Jesus



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Background/Context

- Author: Prophet Jeremiah (560-540 BC)
- Audience: Written to Jewish people as history and spiritual explanation for Israel being a divided nation (Ultimately why Israel became a conquered nation)
- Verses: N. Kingdom suffering with extensive drought (3 years); This was due to extreme idol worship of Baal
- God reached out to people through a “truth” test
- Prophet Elijah used by God to help people experience His presence

Acknowledging The Supreme Priority Of Jesus' Presence

- (vv. 20-24) After 3 brutal years of drought, God still reaching out in love
- God's spokesman, Elijah calls people to Mt. Carmel; 450 prophets of Baal called to prepare animal sacrifice and request their god to consume offering
- Elijah would seek to do same; called for large quantity of water in time of terrible drought
- People thought greatest need was water, but it was actually right relationship with God

- Ps. 9:17, “The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.”
- Rev. 2:4, “Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love,...



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Not Equating Activity With Jesus' Presence

- (vv. 25-29) See desperate scene; false prophets try get their false god Baal to move
- All kinds of activity; fervor, emotion, calling loudly, dynamic activity, but no divine presence
- Even cut themselves; still no answer
- Can have great numbers, a lot of activity and emotion and still not have right relationship with Jesus
- Can have jumping and demonstrations yet still not have power and presence of Jesus

- Matt. 15:18, “These people honor Me with their lips, but their hearts are far from Me.”
- John 15:5, “I am the Vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.”

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Expectantly Preparing For Jesus' Presence His Way

- (vv. 30-37) See God didn't force people to follow Him, He gave them a choice
- Each person had to decide though and come to God His way
- Elijah moved according to faith and obedience to God's plan
- He repaired broken altar, used 12 stones to make a separate altar, filled waterpots with water and poured on altar, prepared sacrifice "burnt offering" and prayed
- Elijah obeyed, and at time of evening sacrifice (3pm), the fire of God fell powerfully!

- 2 Chronicles 7:14, “If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”
- Prov. 3:5-6, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.”



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