

I Kings 18:20-40

3 Realizations Of Experiencing The Meaningful Presence Of Jesus



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
- Last Week: Acknowledging the priority of His presence

Not Equating Activity With Jesus' Presence

- (vv. 25-29) See desperate scene; false prophets try get their false god Baal to respond
- 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.”
- Matt. 23:27, “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men’s bones and all uncleanness.”



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 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.”



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-NC](#)