

The Prophet Elijah
1 Kings 18:1-18
Three Men and Their God(s)

This is my message written prior to being preached. Please excuse the bullet point format and any grammatical mistakes. This is meant to be spoken.

¹ After many days the word of the LORD came to Elijah, in the third year, saying, "Go, show yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain upon the earth." ² So Elijah went to show himself to Ahab. Now the famine was severe in Samaria. ³ And Ahab called Obadiah, who was over the household. (Now Obadiah feared the LORD greatly, ⁴ and when Jezebel cut off the prophets of the LORD, Obadiah took a hundred prophets and hid them by fifties in a cave and fed them with bread and water.) ⁵ And Ahab said to Obadiah, "Go through the land to all the springs of water and to all the valleys. Perhaps we may find grass and save the horses and mules alive, and not lose some of the animals." ⁶ So they divided the land between them to pass through it. Ahab went in one direction by himself, and Obadiah went in another direction by himself. ⁷ And as Obadiah was on the way, behold, Elijah met him. And Obadiah recognized him and fell on his face and said, "Is it you, my lord Elijah?" ⁸ And he answered him, "It is I. Go, tell your lord, 'Behold, Elijah is here.'" ⁹ And he said, "How have I sinned, that you would give your servant into the hand of Ahab, to kill me? ¹⁰ As the LORD your God lives, there is no nation or kingdom where my lord has not sent to seek you. And when they would say, 'He is not here,' he would take an oath of the kingdom or nation, that they had not found you. ¹¹ And now you say, 'Go, tell your lord, "Behold, Elijah is here."'" ¹² And as soon as I have gone from you, the Spirit of the LORD will carry you I know not where. And so, when I come and tell Ahab and he cannot find you, he will kill me, although I your servant have feared the LORD from my youth. ¹³ Has it not been told my lord what I did when Jezebel killed the prophets of the LORD, how I hid a hundred men of the LORD'S prophets by fifties in a cave and fed them with bread and water? ¹⁴ And now you say, 'Go, tell your lord, "Behold, Elijah is here"; and he will kill me.'" ¹⁵ And Elijah said, "As the LORD of hosts lives, before whom I stand, I will surely show myself to him today." ¹⁶ So Obadiah went to meet Ahab, and told him. And Ahab went to meet Elijah. ¹⁷ When Ahab saw Elijah, Ahab said to him, "Is it you, you troubler of Israel?" ¹⁸ And he answered, "I have not troubled Israel, but you have, and your father's house, because you have abandoned the commandments of the LORD and followed the Baals." (1 Kings 18:1-18)

Introduction

- Before we continue our study through the life of Elijah, we need a brief review.
- At the **end of chapter 16** we were introduced to **Israel's King Ahab**, who among other things...

³² ...erected an altar for Baal in the house of Baal, which he built in Samaria. ³³ And Ahab made an Asherah. Ahab did more to provoke the LORD, the God of Israel, to anger than all the kings of Israel who were before him. (1 Kings 16:32-33)

- **Ahab** was an evil King who led his people into idolatry and more.
- And in response to this, God **called the prophet Elijah** to confront him.

- At the beginning of **1 Kings 17...**

¹ Elijah... said to Ahab, “As the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, before whom I stand, there shall be neither dew nor rain these years, except by my word.” (1 Kings 17:1)

- Ahab and his people had rejected **the living God of Israel** in favor of false gods.
- And so, the LORD would judge them with a drought which turned out to last 3 ½ years.
- But during this time **God provided for Elijah.**
- The LORD first sent him to **Cherith**, where Elijah drank from a brook and was **fed by ravens.**
- And when the brook dried up, God sent him to **Sidon**, to the city of **Zarephath**,
- There he lived with **a widow and her son**,
- and God provided for **all three** with flour and oil that did not run out.
- And when the widow’s son suddenly died,
- **God used Elijah to restore his life** and bring his **mother to a sure faith.**
- And that took us to the end of **1 Kings 17**, where **we left Elijah in Zarephath.**
- And that brings us to **chapter 18**, where read...

¹ After many days (following the resurrection of the widow’s son) the word of the LORD came to Elijah, in the third year (of the drought), saying, “Go, show yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain upon the earth.” ² So Elijah went to show himself to Ahab. Now the famine was severe in Samaria. (1 Kings 18:1-2)

- The drought and resulting famine had been going on **for 3 1/2 years.**
- **Ahab and his subjects** had put their trust in **Baal**, the supposed **god of rain**,
- but **Baal** could not and did not help them.
- Only the God of Israel, **the living Lord**, who had shut the rain up in heaven,
- **could cause it to rain again.**
- **And in His grace and mercy**, that’s what he would do.
- But the rain and the relief from severe famine will not come until **the end of chapter 18.**
- **Which we won’t get to for several weeks.**
- **Today in verses 1-18**, we’ll be introduced to a man named **Obidiah**,
- who Elijah meets on the way to show himself to Ahab,
- and we’ll also see what happens when **Elijah does confront Ahab.**
- **Then next week**, we’ll come to what’s the most well-known **event in Elijah’s life**,
- That is, **his defeat & destruction of the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel.**
- So today, we’re going to **look at three different men** who provide **three different examples.**
- **Obidiah and Elijah** give us positive examples as they trust in and serve **their true God.**
- And **Ahab** gives us a **negative example** as he serves **his false gods.**
- And so, it’s my prayer that as we walk through the word of God today...
- That He will use the examples of these men, to instruct, motivate and encourage us.
- That we like Obadiah and Elijah **will trust in and serve the One True Living God.**

- And that brings us to our first example...

1. Obadiah: The Scared Saint

- This is **not the prophet Obadiah** who lived years later,
- after the capture and **destruction of Jerusalem**, instead, **Verse 3** tells us...

³ And Ahab called Obadiah, who was over the household. (Now Obadiah feared the LORD greatly, (1 Kings 18:3)

- This is our introduction to Obadiah, and what a contrast we find. **He**

was over the household of Ahab

- In today's political terms he was **Ahab's chief of staff**.
- He served in an **evil Yahweh rejecting, false god worshipping King Ahab**.
- But at the same time he...

feared the LORD greatly.

- That word **feared** means he had a healthy fear of (a reverence for) the LORD,
- He knew the one true Living Lord, and he worshiped and honored Him.
- Obadiah might well represent **all believers who are in but not of the world**, including us.
- American Christians who live and work in a **society that have, for the most part,**
- **rejected the one true God, in favor of false gods of our own making.**
- And so, we ask how did Obadiah both fear the LORD and served over Ahab's household?
- Well, **very carefully!** He certainly faced **strong temptation to compromise**.
- His boss (Ahab) was not only a non-believer, **but a profoundly evil man**.
- He was hostile to God and God's people.
- And so, Obadiah probably didn't tell Ahab about his **true allegiance to the LORD**.
- Some may see that as cowardly, **but it was probably wise on his part**.
- We see this in verse 4 as we are taken back to an event in Obadiah's life...

⁴ and when Jezebel cut off the prophets of the LORD, Obadiah took a hundred prophets and hid them by fifties in a cave and fed them with bread and water.) (1 Kings 18:4)

- Jezebel not only promoted the false gods of her people, but she also **persecuted God's people**.
- But Obadiah's **position enabled** him to protect and provide for the prophets of the LORD.
- So, in a sense **Obadiah served as God's man in Ahab's house**.
- But that doesn't mean he didn't do his job well.
- Even though Obidiah's boss is **clearly wicked**.
- Obadiah doesn't use this as an excuse to be a slacker.
- Instead, he was **loyal to his earthly King and employer**.

- So much so that he was placed in **charge of the palace**,
- **He must have been one of Ahab's most trusted advisers.**
- And so, in the midst of a **national crisis** (3.5 year long drought and severe famine),
- Ahab turned to **Obadiah for help. Verse 5...**

⁵ And Ahab said to Obadiah, "Go through the land to all the springs of water and to all the valleys. Perhaps we may find grass and save the horses and mules alive, and not lose some of the animals." ⁶ So they divided the land between them to pass through it. Ahab went in one direction by himself, and Obadiah went in another direction by himself. (1 Kings 18:5-6)

- So, during this severe famine, Ahab is more concerned about his horses and mules than his people. **(more on that later).**
- But even though **Ahab's command was questionable**, Obadiah obeyed.
- He was a **faithful servant to his master and a loyal subject to his earthly king**,
- not because **Ahab was a righteous man**, he wasn't,
- but because he knew **the king's authority was ordained by God.**
- As **Paul would later write...**

¹ Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. (Romans 13:1)

- And every Christian, can learn from Obidiah's example.
- He was a **hardworking, loyal, respectful worker.**
- He's an example of **what Paul meant when he exhorted...**

²² Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. ²³ Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. (Colossians 3:22-24)

- So, Obadiah who feared the Lord, **faithfully obeyed his earthly master, Ahab.**
- But this didn't prevent him from **faithfully obeying His God.**
- As long as Ahab didn't ask him to do anything that violated his commitment to God,
- **Obadiah was completely loyal.**
- He may have been quiet about **his faith**,
- but **when push came to shove**, Obadiah would agree with Peter who said...

²⁹ ... "We must obey God rather than men. (Acts 5:29)

- He didn't let his loyalty to his earthly King overcome his loyalty to His Heavenly King.
- **We saw this clearly in verse 4...**
- At great risk to his career and personal safety, he covertly defied the evil King and Queen by protecting a whole group of prophets.

- **So, Obadiah was not a coward.**
- He reminds me of the **Corrie Ten Boom** and her family.
- This Christian family was arrested for hiding Jews and working with the underground resistance to save lives during the **Nazi occupation of the Netherlands in World War II.**
- And like Obadiah and the Ten Boom family, all Christians are called to show courage when confronted with sin and evil in our own society and work.
- A boss may pressure his employees to cut corners for a client.
- A teacher may be required to teach **principles or ideas** that go against God's word.
- A friend **may ask you to cover up for his indiscretions** by telling little white lie.
- But the Christian's response **in these or similar situation** is very simple:
- **If God is your God, then you must obey Him rather than men.**
- We are called **in all circumstances** to do **the godly**, the right thing.
- And then trust **that God will work all things together for his glory and our good.**
- Obadiah did the right thing, **he proved himself faithful to His God.**
- But like us Obadiah was not perfect, **yes, he feared the LORD,**
- but at times he feared men as well, **at times he was a scared saint.**
- We see this in his response to Elijah, beginning in **verse 7.**
- Ahab had sent Obadiah to find grass for his horses and mules.

⁷ And as Obadiah was on the way, behold, Elijah met him. And Obadiah recognized him and fell on his face and said, "Is it you, my lord Elijah?" (apparently, they had met before) ⁸ And he answered him, "It is I. Go, tell your lord, 'Behold, Elijah is here.'"⁹ And he said, "How have I sinned, that you would give your servant into the hand of Ahab, to kill me? (1 Kings 18:7-9)

- Obadiah was afraid that telling Ahab that Elijah had arrived would result in his death.
- And his fears were not unreasonable.
- Obadiah had seen firsthand Ahab's relentless pursuit of Elijah, He says to Elijah **in verse 10...**

¹⁰ As the LORD your God lives, there is no nation or kingdom where my lord has not sent to seek you. And when they would say, 'He is not here,' he would take an oath of the kingdom or nation, that they had not found you. ¹¹ And now you say, 'Go, tell your lord, "Behold, Elijah is here.'"¹¹ (1 Kings 18:10-11)

- Remember **it was Elijah who had told Ahab** that it would not only stop raining, but that the rain would not return until **Elijah** said so.
- So, Ahab has been searching far and wide for Elijah,
- even requiring other kingdoms to swear that they were not harboring him.
- Obadiah knew just how **angry Ahab was with Elijah.** So when in verse 9 Obadiah said,

How have I sinned, that you would give your servant into the hand of Ahab, to kill me

- he was really saying, **"You must be joking, Elijah!**

- **You don't know Ahab like I know Ahab.**
- When he finds out that I've been talking to you, **he'll kill me.**
- Obadiah's continues to object by saying...

¹² And as soon as I have gone from you, the Spirit of the LORD will carry you I know not where. And so, when I come and tell Ahab and he cannot find you, he will kill me, although I your servant have feared the LORD from my youth. (1 Kings 18:12)

- Obadiah was also afraid that Elijah would disappear again before Ahab could find him,
- in which case the king would be angrier with Obadiah than ever.
- He continues to justify his fears in verse 13...

¹³ Has it not been told my lord what I did when Jezebel killed the prophets of the LORD, how I hid a hundred men of the LORD'S prophets by fifties in a cave and fed them with bread and water? ¹⁴ And now you say, 'Go, tell your lord, "Behold, Elijah is here"; and he will kill me." (1 Kings 18:13-14)

- Don't you know all I have done already in service to God.
- And now you ask more of me, now you ask me to face death.
- So yes, Obidiah had fears, yes, he doubted Elijah, **the Lord's prophet.**
- Nevertheless, **in spite of all this, Obadiah obeyed the Lord.**
- This is the important thing, **that in the end he was faithful to the Lord...**

¹⁵ And Elijah said, "As the LORD of hosts lives, before whom I stand, I will surely show myself to him today." ¹⁶ So Obadiah went to meet Ahab, and told him. And Ahab went to meet Elijah. (1 Kings 18:15-16)

- After some reassurance from his brother Elijah,
- Obadiah had the courage to do what the Lord commanded of him, even when he was afraid.
- And we must do the same.
- Are we willing and able to do the hard things God calls us to do, **in spite of all our fears?**
- Specifically, are we willing to **push past our fears** and be Christ's representatives in a culture that often ridicules us and calls us intolerant, deceived, haters.
- I just finished reading a biography titled "**John Wayne: The Life and Legend**" and I can assure you John Wayne is not a Christian or role model for Christians.
- However, he did have some wisdom in the area of **courage** that I think applies to **Obadiah** and should apply to us. **Wayne said...**

Courage is being scared to death—but saddling up anyway. (John Wayne)

- Obadiah was literally scared to death of telling Ahab that **Elijah had arrived.**
- But he saddled up anyway, **he obeyed the LORD,**
- his fear of and reverence for the Lord was greater than his fear of man.

- Now the text doesn't tell us how Ahab responded to Obadiah for bringing him news of Elijah's whereabouts, **it simply says....**

So Obadiah went to meet Ahab, and told him

- And maybe this is part of the point.
- Regardless Ahab's response, maybe he did kill Obadiah, maybe he promoted him, we don't know.
- The point is that regardless of his fears **and the consequences Obadiah obeyed God.**
- **And that should be true of us as well.**
- Yes, we may be afraid to obey God because obedience may result in hostility, ridicule, suffering, persecution even death.
- But that's not the point, the point is we must obey God regardless of our fears and possible consequences.
- So, I hope we've learned from Obidiah the Scared Saint.
- He had a complicated life, on the one hand he served and even feared Ahab,
- But ultimately, he Feared the LORD, he saddled up and obeyed His GOD. **Now we turn to...**

2. Elijah: The Persecuted Prophet

- Remember at the beginning of this chapter we read...

¹ After many days the word of the LORD came to Elijah, in the third year, saying, "Go, show yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain upon the earth." ² So Elijah went to show himself to Ahab. Now the famine was severe in Samaria. (1 Kings 18:1-2)

- If Obidiah was afraid to tell Ahab that Elijah was here.
- It was certainly reasonable for **Elijah to be afraid to confront Ahab.**
- But Elijah had the kind **of courage** that comes from living in relationship with God.
- When the Lord told Elijah to go to King Ahab, the prophet did what he always did.
- **We are not told if Eljah experienced fear, we are only told that he obeyed His God.**
- When the Lord said, "**Go,**" Elijah did not ask, "How far?"; he just went.
- Elijah knew his God.
- Even though he lived in a culture that said, "**God is dead,**" **Elijah had not lost his faith.**
- He served the living God, and therefore he was determined to keep doing exactly what God told him to do.
- **And so Elijah once again, boldly confronts King Ahab. And...**

¹⁷ When Ahab saw Elijah, Ahab said to him, "Is it you, you troubler of Israel?" (1 Kings 18:17)

- **more literally,** Ahab accused Elijah of being "**the one who has brought a curse upon Israel.**"
- In Ahab's warped mind, he believed that **God's prophet had been making trouble for Israel.**
- He believed that it was Elijah who caused **the drought and the subsequent famine.**
- Ahab faulty logic was this, Elijah announced the drought, so Elijah caused the drought and everything that followed.

- He conveniently forgot that the announcement was from the LORD,
- and the drought was God's judgment on evil Ahab and his people.
- And Ahab's accusation of Elijah, serves as a warning about what happens to God's people in evil days, when God's judgment comes upon an evil people.
- First (as Ahab and his fathers had done) the world will shut its ears to God's Word.
- Then it will point an accusatory finger at God's people.
- When trouble comes, **the people of this world** do not often turn back to God,
- but instead, they turn further against him and his people, sometimes even seeking to kill them.
- That's what Jezebel did as she...

13 ...killed the prophets of the LORD, (1 Kings 18:13)

- In the New Testament, we see this same type of accusation and persecution from **the religious leaders of Israel**.
- They said basically the same thing about the **apostle Paul that Ahab said about Elijah**.
- They brought him before the **Roman Governor Felix** and charged him, saying...

5 For we have found this man a plague, one who stirs up riots among all the Jews throughout the world... (Acts 24:5)

- All Paul did was preach the gospel.
- But the gospel **is always a threat to an evil society**.
- The values of the kingdom of heaven are **diametrically opposed** to the values of the kingdom of this world.
- And because of that faithful servants of God are seen as **troublemakers** in the eyes of the world.
- In the early church Christians were wrongfully charged with practicing **incest and cannibalism** because of their **love for "brothers and sisters"**
- and their **eating and drinking "the body and blood of Christ."**
- Under **Nero**, Christians were blamed for **the burning of Rome**, and many were executed.
- And for the next **several hundred years Christianity** was a capital offense in the Roman Empire.
- **As 2nd Century Theologian, Tertullian** observed...

If the Tiber (River) rises too high or the Nile too low, the cry is "The Christians to the lion." (Tertullian)

- And why is that?
- Well, I think **20th Century Theologian Francis Schaffer** gives a good answer...

Let us not forget why the Christians were killed. They were not killed because they worshiped Jesus... Nobody cared who worshiped whom so long as the worshiper did not disrupt the unity of the state, centered in the formal worship of Caesar. The reason the Christians were killed was because they were rebels. (Francis Schaffer)

- **Christianity is not compatible with other religions or philosophies.**
- Because **God is not compatible** with the gods of our world or human wisdom.
- Therefore, if we are living in obedience to the word of God,
- If God is our God, then we (like Elijah) will be accused of being troublemakers in a godless world.
- This was certainly true of Jesus, the **world thought Jesus was a troublemaker, too.**
- When he was brought to trial before **Pilate, his accusers said,**

² ...“We found this man misleading our nation and forbidding us to give tribute to Caesar, and saying that he himself is Christ, a king.”... ⁵ ... “He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee even to this place.” (Luke 23:2, 5)

- When the word of God is declared, when gospel of Jesus Christ is preached...
- Some are drawn to God in faith and repentance,
- but at the same time, others grow in hostility to God and his messengers.
- The coming of Jesus Christ into the world had and continues to have this double effect.
- For those who accept it, **Jesus can say...**

²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you... John 14:27

- But because others would reject the gospel, Jesus also said...

³⁴ “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. (Matthew 10:34)

- So, we shouldn't be surprised when the world continues to attack the church of Jesus Christ.
- Whether it be with **physical violence** as in **many places in our world.**
- Or with job loss, lawsuits, harassment, ridicule and disdain **that we can experience in the west.**
- **As American society** continues to reject the one true God,
- the accusations and attacks on the church of Jesus Christ will only grow in number and severity.
- But the hatred of the world should neither discourage nor frighten us.
- By the grace of God believers can be **bold like Elijah**, because we serve **the same God.**
- The Sovereign, all-mighty Creator and living God is our God.
- Therefore, we can **be courageous in the face** of an evil king, or an evil culture.
- And we can take heart from Jesus words of encouragement...

¹⁸ “If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. ¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. (John 15:18-19)

- So, take heart,
- Knowing that as we seek to live and represent our God in a godless society!
- We will certainly encounter hatred, accusations and even persecution.
- The question is, will we allow these difficulties to compromise our faith.

- Or will we like fearless Elijah (or even fearful Obadiah),
- continue to live trusting and obeying the LIVING GOD.
- So, I hope we've learned some things from the **positive examples of both Obadiah and Elijah.**
- Now we turn to the **negative example of...**

3. Ahab: The True Troublemaker and His Gods

- After Ahab accuses Elijah of being the “**troubler of Israel**”. Elijah responds...

18 And he answered, “I have not troubled Israel, but you have, and your father’s house, because you have abandoned the commandments of the LORD and followed the Baals. (1 Kings 18:18)

- Ahab tried to blame all the trouble in Israel on Elijah, **but Elijah’s sets the record straight.**
- The king and his fathers, the evil kings of Israel that proceeded Ahab are the ones who brought severe famine to the land.
- They are the Troublemakers.
- **And Ahab is the worst of the bunch.**
- And this is always the case.
- The people **who live in rebellion against God** are the ones who bring the trouble of God’s judgment.
- And what did Ahab do to bring the judgment of the LORD upon his people?
- Elijah specifically says...

you have abandoned the commandments of the LORD and followed the Baals

- Ahab was not obeying the commandments of the LORD.
- He had rejected the Law of God.
- He probably didn’t even bother to know what the LORD’s commandments were.
- Because unlike Obadiah and Elijah the LORD was not his God.
- Ahab... ***followed the Baals***
- This is a direct violation of the first commandment...

3 “You shall have no other gods before me. (Exodus 20:3)

- Ahab had chosen to reject the living God and follow the Baals (various manifestations of the god Baal).
- And when he and his people experienced the judgment of God for their...
- Ahab should have repented and cried out the LORD for mercy
- For the sake of his people, he should have been praying for God to turn away his wrath.
- But instead, he was trying to persevere through divine judgment in the power of his powerless false gods.
- However, he got no help from the Baals, the rain god could not bring rain.

- And what was Ahab's answer? What was he doing to help his people?
- Well, apparently nothing. **Instead remember back in verse 5 we read...**

5 And Ahab said to Obadiah, "Go through the land to all the springs of water and to all the valleys. Perhaps we may find grass and save the horses and mules alive, and not lose some of the animals." (1 Kings 18:5)

- Ahab was not concerned about his people.
- He was not concerned about his many sins against the living God!
- His main concern was his animals.
- And why were horses and mules so important to Ahab?
- Well, because he believed that they were **essential to national security**.
- His horses and mules gave him prestige (and safety) from the larger Empires surrounding Israel.
- Ahab had found that he couldn't really trust in Baal.
- But He was unwilling to trust the LORD.
- So, he trusts his horses, his military might.
- And this attitude is something the Bible explicitly warns against. **According to the psalmist,**

16 The king is not saved by his great army; a warrior is not delivered by his great strength. 17 The war horse is a false hope for salvation, and by its great might it cannot rescue. (Psalms 33:16-17)

- Military might can only get you so far.
- And it will get you nowhere when faced with the judgment of God.
- But Ahab had backed himself into a corner, he had rejected the True God, he was being Judged by the True God, and his god was no help.
- And so, he's out saving horses in hope of staying safe.
- Ahab can be contrasted with David, **a king whose God was the LORD,**
- A King after **God's own heart**.
- David also fell **under divine judgment**, when he disobeyed God and took a census of his people, **especially noting the number of warriors he had,**
- But when David was **confronted with his sin and God's judgment...**

17 Then David spoke to the LORD when he saw the angel who was striking the people, and said, "Behold, I have sinned, and I have done wickedly. But these sheep, what have they done? Please let your hand be against me and against my father's house." (2 Samuel 24:17)

- David was a true king and spiritual leader.
- He accepted responsibility for his sin, recognizing that he himself was the troublemaker.
- **Ahab was no such king.**
- He took no responsibility for God's judgment on his people.
- He abandoned the **Lord; he followed after the Baals**, and he blamed Elijah.
- **When in fact he was the true troubler of Israel.**

- **So, it's not hard to know which example to follow.**
- If we're honest with ourselves, and with God (like David was),
- We'll see that we are often the cause of our own **difficulties**.
- And that our trouble will not get resolved **by blaming other people** (like Ahab did),
- **but only by repenting and confessing our own sin.**
- **Receiving forgiveness and help from the LORD.**
- And this is possible because **we trust in an infinitely better King than Ahab or David.**
- Ahab wrongly denied that his sin was responsible for God's judgement, **blaming Elijah.**
- David rightly **repented and confessed that his sin** was responsible for God's judgment, **blaming himself.**
- But our King, Jesus Christ, **had no sin to repent of or confess.**
- Jesus was no troublemaker, and yet he invited trouble upon himself in order to save his people.
- **As Isaiah declares...**

⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way;

We are the troublemakers but...

and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. (Isaiah 53:6)

- Jesus, who knew no sin **took our sins upon himself at the cross.**
- Though blameless himself, he nevertheless took the blame for our sin in order to save us.
- **AMEN**
- So, let us remember the examples of **Obadiah, Elijah and even Ahab.**
- Obidiah Feared the LORD but served in the house of Ahab.
- He was in the world but not of the world,
- He showed us how to work as unto the LORD,
- and how to overcome fear **and be courageous** in the face of evil, regardless of the outcome.
- Elijah had a great trust in the LORD which enabled him to obey God by courageously confronting evil King Ahab.
- He showed us that as we face evil in this world,
- We must not compromise our faith but continue to trust and obey the LORD.
- And Ahab (with David's help) showed us the importance of not blaming others but taking responsibility for our own sin, **confessing and repenting before the LORD.**
- But most of all as Brian comes to lead us in Communion,
- let us remember what Jesus Christ has done for us.
- How he, though blameless, on the cross, took the blame for our sins upon himself.
- That we might be saved.
- **Prayer.**