



Alone on the Mountain – *Bold Faith*

Tom Ellsworth 1 Kings 18 April 24, 2016

- When Jezebel introduced Baal worship into Israel, times were good. It would seem natural to attribute prosperous times to the good favor of Baal. When is prosperity a sign of divine favor and when might it be a sign of evil? Does prosperity for the rich mean hardship for the poor?
- The contest between Baal and THE LORD really began when Elijah prayer that the rain would not come. Baal was the false god who was thought to be in control of the weather which brought prosperity. Many people at that time believed that god worked through the king. If the king were on good terms with Baal, then good things would happen. Is there a relationship between a leader's relationship with God and the success and prosperity of a nation?
- Baal is only an idol. Is the Cross an idol? Do Christians worship it? What place does a cross have in Christian life? What are some objects that have spiritual power? How are idols, good luck charms and crosses different? What might you recognize as modern idols?
- Ahab blames Elijah for Israel's problems. Who do you most commonly blame when things do not go your way? How often do you thank or complement others when things go right?

Ephesians 4:14

So we are no longer to be children, tossed back and forth by waves and carried about by every wind of teaching by the trickery of people who craftily carry out their deceitful schemes. 15 But practicing the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into Christ, who is the head. 16 From him the whole body grows, fitted and held together through every supporting ligament. As each one does its part, the body grows in love.

- What are the harms and dangers of indecision?
- Tom reminded us not to trust the crowd. Democracy is marked by majority rule. When do we stand for majority rule and when do we stand against it? Can you think of times besides the Ahab vs Elijah episode when the majority was wrong? How much confidence do you put in the majority when you disagree with their decisions?
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- When the Congress called for the people of Kansas- Nebraska territory to vote to allow slavery in the state or not, Abraham Lincoln said that two people cannot vote to enslave a third. Are there other situations when "majority rule" might be an abuse of power?
- What are some issues that you would "stand alone" on? How would you know what issues to choose? Have you ever found yourself on the "wrong" side of an issue?
- Think about Ahab and Jezebel. What are some other more productive ways they could have responded to the crisis in Israel?
- When someone is on the wrong side of an issue, how would you like them to respond? If you found yourself on the wrong side of an issues, how would you like to respond?
- Why do you think Herman Melville named the fanatic, vengeful, Captain Ahab of Moby Dick after the king of Israel who: "...did more evil in the sight of the LORD than all who were before him."? 1Ki 16:30
- How do you decide where you stand on an issue?