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2  **The Deadly Drought**

3  **1 Kings 17:1**

- *And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word.*

4  **A deadly drought**

- 1st year
 - After a year without rain, the storehouses of food began to be empty
 - The ground cracked from lack of moisture
 - Needed animals died in the desert
- 2nd year – Precious valuables exchanged for food
- 3rd year – Children die; king worries about his own supplies; everyone blames Elijah
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5  **Where is Elijah?**

- Contract goes out on Elijah's head
- No one can find him
- When someone does see him, he seems to disappear before anyone can arrest him
- Elijah dwelt first by a brook and then with a widow; he is used by God to raise her son from the dead

6  **The Daring Disciple**

7  **1 Kings 18:1-3**

- *And it came to pass after many days, that the word of the LORD came to Elijah in the third year, saying, Go, shew thyself unto Ahab; and I will send rain upon the earth. And Elijah went to shew himself unto Ahab. And there was a sore famine in Samaria. And Ahab called Obadiah, which was the governor of his house. (Now Obadiah feared the LORD greatly:*

8  **1 Kings 18:4-5**

- *For it was so, when Jezebel cut off the prophets of the LORD, that Obadiah took an hundred prophets, and hid them by fifty in a cave, and fed them with bread and water.) And Ahab said unto Obadiah, Go into the land, unto all fountains of water, and unto all brooks: peradventure we may find grass to save the horses and mules alive, that we lose not all the beasts.*

9  **1 Kings 18:6-8**

- *So they divided the land between them to pass throughout it: Ahab went one way by himself, and Obadiah went another way by himself. And as Obadiah was in the way, behold, Elijah met him: and he knew him, and fell on his face, and said, Art thou that my lord Elijah? And he answered him, I am: go, tell thy lord, Behold, Elijah is here.*

10  **1 Kings 18:9-11**

- *And he said, What have I sinned, that thou wouldest deliver thy servant into the hand of Ahab, to slay me? As the LORD thy God liveth, there is no nation or kingdom, whither my lord hath not sent to seek thee: and when they said, He is not there; he took an oath of the kingdom and nation, that they found thee not. And now thou sayest, Go, tell thy lord, Behold, Elijah is here.*

11  **1 Kings 18:12-13**

- *And it shall come to pass, as soon as I am gone from thee, that the Spirit of the LORD shall carry thee whither I know not; and so when I come and tell Ahab, and he cannot find thee, he shall slay me: but I thy servant fear the LORD from my youth. Was it not told my lord what I did when Jezebel slew the prophets of the LORD, how I hid an hundred men of the LORD'S prophets by fifty in a cave, and fed them with bread and water?*

12  **1 Kings 18:14-15**

- *And now thou sayest, Go, tell thy lord, Behold, Elijah is here: and he shall slay me.*
- *And Elijah said, As the LORD of hosts liveth, before whom I stand, I will surely shew myself unto him to day.*

13  **One man makes a difference**

- Soldiers dying in jungle in Vietnam
- Enemy fire so intense that infantry commander orders medevac helicopters to stop coming in.
- Unarmed Huey helicopter lands and pilot Ed Freeman jumps out and pull soldiers on board—getting them out of gunfire.
- Came back 13 times; rescued more than 30 soldiers; received Medal of Honor

14  **Where are those men?**

- Lots of neat Christian guys
- Very few godly men who make a difference
- Tea Party made impact in 2010 because they had made up their minds that “enough is enough; we want our country back.”

15  **Elijah is here!**









- He couldn't be ignored
- Everyone knew who he was
- He was either a troublemaker or a problem solver—depending on which side you were on
- His impact was always substantial
 - Could stop rain or call down fire
 - You couldn't be passive about Elijah
 - “Elijah is here” = Confrontation is happening

16  **Backbone from bended knees**

- Most famous OT prophet
 - Mentioned 25 times in the New Testament
 - People compared John the Baptist to him
- Remembered for 2 things:
 - Power
 - Effectual fervent prayer (James 5:16-18)
 - *The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. Elijah was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.*

17  **Where are men with backbone?**

- Elijah didn't blend with the Christianity-lite crowd.
- Men today often more committed to hobbies, sports, hunting, fishing, off-roading than they are to God's Word
- Do you put greater priority on socializing or on God's Word? If your children learn by example, what lesson are they getting?

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- 18  **D.L. Moody**
 - He once heard someone say that God was waiting to show the world what He could do with one fully surrendered man.
 - He responded, "By the grace of God, I'll be that man."
- 19  **Elijah's Constitution**
 - "Elijah" comes from Hebrew words meaning "Jehovah (or Yahweh) is God."
 - His very name was a testimony to the reality of the real God; his mission was to prove that our God is the only real God.
 - He was a man with CONVICTION. This caused him to take a stand. (vs.17-19)
 - He was a man filled with GOD'S SPIRIT. {Remember Elisha's request.}
 - He was a man with BIBLE FAITH -- He believed, surrendered, changed, and worked. He put God to the test.
- 20  **Elijah's Opposition (v. 19)**
 - His combatants
 - 450 prophets of Baal
 - 400 prophets of Ashteroth
 - King and angry people.
 - His courage
 - He chose to "stand alone" with God.
 - One person and God is a majority.
- 21  **Elijah's Proposition (v.21-24)**
 - Contest by fire.
 - Baal was supposed to be the god of fire and fertility. But God is the God of consuming fire.
 - Elijah was not presumptuous.
 - He was simply in tune with the mighty will of God. The contest was an act of obedience, not "using" God.
 - God still desires to show Himself strong in behalf of those who love Him. (2 Chronicles 16:9)
- 22  **The Demanded Decision**
- 23  **Extraordinary measures**
 - J. Sidlow Baxter said, "When wickedness develops into extraordinary proportions, God meets it with extraordinary measures."
 - Elijah throws down the gauntlet before King Ahab and Queen Jezebel
 - Stopped rain for 3-1/2 years
 - Yet people still continued to seek their false gods
 - Elijah—after season of prayer—challenges the false gods to a duel
- 24  **C.H. Spurgeon**
 - *"If you are sure it is a right thing for which you are asking, plead now, plead at noon, plead at night, plead on. With cries and tears spread out your case. Order your arguments. Back up your pleas with reasons."*
- 25  **Elijah is here!**
 - His presence changed the conversation and demanded a decision.

- Does your presence change the conversation?
- Elijah demanded a decision from everyone about whom they would worship.

26  **Michael Catt**

- *"No one gets away with rebellion against God. Name the nation or the empire that maintained its domination after giving themselves to violence, godless idolatry, sensuality, and immorality. Whether it is the Philistines, Assyrians, Greeks, Romans, Huns, Nazis, Communists, or the terrorists, all have or will pass off the scene. If America doesn't have a Mount Carmel moment, we too will fail."*

27  **Do we have false gods?**

- Celebrities
- Fame and fortune
- Entertainment, technology, and science
- Food ("*Hunger Games*")
- Political correctness and non-offensive preaching
 - Christians today have little appetite for the Word of God and a call to the cross
 - John Winthrop walked 12 miles to sit through 4 hours of preaching and then walked home

28  **Isaiah 44:8-10**

Is there a God beside me? yea, there is no God; I know not any. They that make a graven image are all of them vanity; and their delectable things shall not profit; and they are their own witnesses; they see not, nor know; that they may be ashamed. Who hath formed a god, or molten a graven image that is profitable for nothing?

29  **Isaiah 44:12-13**

The smith with the tongs both worketh in the coals, and fashioneth it with hammers, and worketh it with the strength of his arms: yea, he is hungry, and his strength falleth: he drinketh no water, and is faint. The carpenter stretcheth out his rule; he marketh it out with a line; he fitteth it with planes, and he marketh it out with the compass, and maketh it after the figure of a man, according to the beauty of a man; that it may remain in the house.

30  **Isaiah 44:14-15**

He heweth him down cedars, and taketh the cypress and the oak, which he strengtheneth for himself among the trees of the forest: he planteth an ash, and the rain doth nourish it. Then shall it be for a man to burn: for he will take thereof, and warm himself; yea, he kindleth it, and baketh bread; yea, he maketh a god, and worshippeth it; he maketh it a graven image, and falleth down thereto.

31  **Isaiah 44:16-18**

He burneth part thereof in the fire; with part thereof he eateth flesh; he roasteth roast, and is satisfied: yea, he warmeth himself, and saith, Aha, I am warm, I have seen the fire: And the residue thereof he maketh a god, even his graven image: he falleth down unto it, and worshippeth it, and prayeth unto it, and saith, Deliver me; for thou art my god. They have not known nor understood: for he hath shut their eyes, that they cannot see; and their hearts, that they cannot understand.

32  **Elijah...be more positive...**

- You can't be positive about something negative
- You can't call a disaster a success
- "Come apart" and "Be Holy!"
- Christianity isn't a cafeteria line where you pick and choose what you want

- Ahab calls Elijah the “troubler of Israel” (1 Kings 18:17)

33  **Where’s the real trouble?**

- Elijah replies (1 Kings 18:18-19):
 - *I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father's house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the LORD, and thou hast followed Baalim. Now therefore send, and gather to me all Israel unto mount Carmel, and the prophets of Baal four hundred and fifty, and the prophets of the groves four hundred, which eat at Jezebel's table.*
- Elijah has thrown down the gauntlet!

34  **Men who challenged the world**

- Luther confronted corruption of the church
- Tyndale made sure people had the Word
- Whitfield and Wesley called men to revival
- Jonathan Edwards challenged America's sin
- Billy Sunday opposed alcohol destroying the land
- Who will stand up today and challenge and change the world?

35  **Indecisive = unstable**

- James 1:8 – *“A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.”*
- Elijah had given people 3-1/2 years to make up their mind. Three groups showed up on top of Mount Carmel:
 - Elijah and God
 - Prophets of Baal and Ashtoreth and pagan worshipers
 - People still undecided

36  **1 Kings 18:21**

- *And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word.*
 - “Halt” = “Limp along”
 - How many sermons do you need to hear?
 - Man up; make up your mind; pick a side!
 - (Do you really want to spend one more night with the frogs? – Exodus 8:8)

37  **Rampant spiritual mediocrity**

- Vance Havner:
 - *The king of Israel, Ahab, was a the vile toad that squatted on the throne of Israel. He followed the ways of his wife, Jezebel -- a beautiful and beguiling slimy snake that coiled beside him.*
- There were 7000 believers who had not bowed knee to Baal (1 Kings 19:18) but didn't want to get involved.
- There were a 100 prophets hiding in a cave.

38  **The choice**

- Elijah demanded the people to make a choice between an idol in which they were losing confidence or the Living God which they had neglected and left
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39  **The Dancing Dummies**

40  **Their Preparation**

- Placed a bullock on top of the altar of Baal upon which they had already placed wood.

– Chrysostom said that they tried to hide a man underneath the altar but that he suffocated to death.

41  **Their Prancing**

- They began dancing around the altar singing a chant to Baal.
- When this proved ineffective, they danced harder, faster, and shouted louder.
 - Definition of stupidity: “When something doesn’t work, do it again and again. If it still doesn’t work, do it harder, faster, and louder.”

42  **Their Perversion**

- Perversion -- With still no answer from their god, they jumped on the altar and began cutting themselves with knives, bleeding upon the sacrifice hoping that their blood will rouse Baal to action.

43  **Elijah’s Prodding**

- Near the end of the day, Elijah (watching closely to make sure no one flicked his BIC) made fun of the prophets by saying, “Maybe your god is talking or jogging or asleep.” (18:27)
 - Maybe he’s watching “As the Stomach Churns”.
 - This made the prophets work even harder, but people began to lose interest sensing the prophets’ (and Baal’s) defeat (v. 29).

44  **Don’t respect stupidity**

- We can be gracious to people without being tolerant of their stupidity.
- Acknowledge the worth of the person.
- But have a little fun with stupid ideas like evolution....

45  **The Divine Display**

46  **The Right Place**

- Mount Carmel—a place where an altar of God was in disrepair (1 Kings 18:30)
 - Elijah went to God’s territory for the contest
 - He went to the place people recognized as having once been sanctified to the worship of God.
 - Whenever possible fight on God’s territory.
 - Stronger soldiers are needed to take the fight to more difficult ground.

47  **The Right Place (2)**

- It should be noted, however, that we can stand alone with Christ anywhere, anytime.
- While this was a place that had been dedicated to God, this contest was still:
 - held in the place of Baal’s greatest power
 - in the presence of acknowledged leaders
 - appealed to Baal’s prominent characteristics

48  **The Required Method**

- Elijah placed the wood in a special order and cut the sacrifice in just such a certain way.
 - There was “a method to his madness.” In other words, Elijah was following a specific procedure prescribed by God (Leviticus) for offering sacrifices.
 - To experience the power of God, be obedient to do things HIS WAY.
 - Applies to school, family, friends, love, courtship, marriage.

49  **The Remarkable Attitude**

- Calls for four barrels of water to be brought (18:34-35)
- Can you imagine the reaction? Then he called for four more and four more.

- He drenched the sacrifice in water, the wood was soggy, the rocks were wet, and a trench around the altar was filled with water.
- There would be no question that this would have to be a miracle.

50  **The Remarkable Attitude (2)**

- This demonstrates a right attitude. Elijah ("Jehovah is God") was living up to his name.
 - Our God is no small and limited God.
 - He is the greatest King and Lord of the Universe.
 - "When God wants to do something great, He starts with a problem; when He wants to do a miracle, he starts with an impossibility."

51  **The Remarkable Attitude (3)**

- Do you believe in a powerful God?
 - Elijah believed in a God who could burn wet wood.
 - Abraham and Sarah believed in a God Who made the barren fruitful.
 - Moses believed in a God who could give water from rocks, open seas, and put fire in a bush without killing it.
 - Joshua believed in a God who dried rivers.
 - Daniel's God stopped the mouths of lions.

52  **The Remarkable Attitude (4)**

- Hannaniah, Mishael, and Azariah (Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego) in a God who keeps you cool in the fire.
- How big is your God?

53  **The Reminding Words**

- Elijah prayed to the God of their forefathers, reminding Israel of their heritage (18:36-37).
 - We need to remember our heritage in the faith.
 - Who are those who led us to the Lord or brought us to church?
 - What is the heritage of our country?

54  **The Rebuilt Altar**

- The secret to spiritual power is the rebuilt altar.
 - Does your life need an altar?
 - Have you been going to the Lord regularly?
 - What have offered to the Lord there?
 - Closet Worship
 - Chamber Worship
 - Cottage Worship
 - Congregational Worship

55  **The Rebuilt Altar (2)**

- The altar is the place of:
 - Sacrifice -- giving all in your life to God.
 - Supplication -- telling God your needs.
 - Sanctification -- Setting yourself apart unto God to become more like Christ.
- How could you apply those three steps to your time alone with God?

56  **The Deserved Destruction**

57  **God wins; evil loses**

- The false prophets were destroyed

- 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of Ashtoreth (18:19)
- None escaped (18:40); all were slain
- The people's trust in Baal was destroyed
 - But this was only partial; some people still unconvinced (Jezebel most notably)
 - "Those convinced against their will are of the same opinion still."

58  **The Dynamic Duo**

59  **God + you = a majority**

- You can stand alone with Christ.
- If you must stand in Elijah's sandals, you still have the same God.
- Here's how to do it:
 1. Rebuild your altar.
 2. Stay close to God's Word to have the right convictions.
 3. Ask God to fill you with the Holy Spirit.
 4. Say, "No thank you; I've given my life to Jesus and I cannot do that."

60  **Put Him to the test!**

- Put God to the test in your life.
- Honor Him unconditionally and watch Him pour out His blessings.
- Stand alone with God and watch the fire fall!