

MESSAGE NOTES

UNDERCURRENT

PART 5: Mt. Carmel – Where Commitment is Determined

1 Kings 18:1-21

November 18/19, 2017

Pastor Mark Riggins

1. Publicly committing to God is rarely easy or popular.
2. Commitment is the foundation upon which blessings are built.

“Some of you have just enough Christianity to be miserable in a night club, and not enough to be happy in a prayer meeting.” – Donald Barnhouse

3. The content of commitment is trust.
4. To not commit is to not trust.
5. Every challenge in our life is an invitation to trust.

Profile of Trust

5 truths about trust:

- Trust doesn't take a poll
- Trust doesn't demand explanations
- Trust doesn't require tidy
- Trust isn't birthed in comfortable places
- Trust isn't self-generated

5 behaviors of people who are trusting:

- Focus on “what's next?” more than “why?”
- Pray more than worry
- Hustle while they trust
- Courage beyond themselves
- Encourage others to trust

Ultimately, my trust is anchored in God's faithfulness.

“Trust is an unerring sense, way deep down, that beneath the surface agitation, boredom, and insecurity of life, it's gonna be all right. Ill winds may blow, more character defects may surface, sickness may visit, and friends will surely die, but a stubborn, irrefutable certainty persists that God is with us and loves us in our struggle to be faithful. A nonrational, absolutely true intuition endures that there is something unfathomably big in the universe. Something that points to Someone who is filled with peace and power, love and undreamed of creativity – Someone who inevitably will reconcile all things in himself.” – Brennan Manning

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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1. Take some time to read back over 1 Kings 18:1-21.
2. Was there one thing you recall from the weekend that made an impression on you?
3. When Elijah meets with Ahab, he points out that the trouble everyone is experiencing is fundamentally caused by what?
4. Can you identify how abandonment of God's direction for humanity can lead to trouble in people's experience?
5. What question did Elijah pose to the people? Why is that question such a crucial one for us as well?
6. Elijah had a deep trust in God. He didn't take a poll, demand explanations from God and his trust was birthed in uncomfortable places. Have you noticed that deep trust in God often begins in the hard places?
7. We saw five behaviors of people who trust: They focus on the question "what's next?" more than "why?", pray more than they worry, hustle while they trust, have courage beyond themselves, and encourage others to trust. Can you think of someone in your life that practices some of these behaviors?
8. Since trust isn't self-generated, this week how can you remind yourself of God's faithfulness helping to build your trust?
9. How can this group pray for you? Is there an area in your life where you're struggling to trust God?