

MESSAGE NOTES

UNDERCURRENT

Part 6: Hilltop Altar – Where God’s Power is On Display

1 Kings 18:22 - 39

November 25/26, 2017

Pastor Daniel Hahn

But there was no response, no one answered, no one paid attention (1 Kings 18:29).

1. If you’re depending on any source other than God for your life and your future, you’re ultimately in for a massive let down.

“Idols themselves are nothing. Idol worship, however, is everything. As Paul makes clear in 1 Corinthians 10:20 when he refers to idol worship as sacrifices offered to demons. Behind every human icon lies a spiritual being of immense power, playing on human hungers, sending men and women on fruitless quests for things which will never satisfy.” — David Roper

Your name shall be Israel (1 Kings 18:31).

2. If you’re unsure of where you stand with God, you can be sure that His invitation to you is current — today — right now.

[Elijah] built an altar in the name of the LORD (1 Kings 18:32).

3. If you’re avoiding anything risky, any stretch of your faith, you’ll eventually grow spiritually bored (and boring to others). Unexercised faith withers and dies.

“It is madness to wear fancy clothes to church; we should all be wearing crash helmets. Ushers should issue life preservers and signal flares; they should lash us to our chairs. For ... God may draw us out to where we can never return.” — Annie Dillard

... these people will know that you, O LORD, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again (1 Kings 18:37).

4. If you’re trusting God beyond your comfort zone, you’re in the realm where His presence, power and provisions can actually be experienced.

“A life in God is one of risk and mystery ... Once the primal fires have been ignited, fluorescent lights just won’t do... . When the All-present comes to dwell within your soul, you would expect at least some minor disruption. If Jesus has come to dwell within you, you are no longer suited for a normal life. You are most fully alive when you are on an adventure with God. People who are fully alive look out of their minds to those who simply exist. The closer you get to God, the freer you are to simply be yourself.”

— Erwin McMannus

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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Take some time to read back over 1 Kings 18:22 – 39.

Was there something that impacted you personally from last weekend?

Do you recall how the people responded when Elijah confronted them with their double-mindedness (peek back at 1 Kings 18:21)?

How did the people respond to the confrontation Elijah proposed between Baal and God? Why were they enthusiastic now, when previously they seemed ambivalent?

In what ways does personal sacrifice usually reveal our true values?

What preparations did Elijah make in the sight of the people before he prayed to God?

How did Elijah address God in prayer?

How did the people react when they saw fire burn up Elijah’s offering?

What did Elijah perceive that God was doing in Israel through this showdown?

Some people use stories such as this to make claims about how God will answer our prayers. How are we supposed to interpret historical events?

How can we be confident of the power of God yet humble about declaring what He is obligated to do?

This week, is there one way you’d like to take some bold step because of your certainty in God?

How would you like to grow in your trust, and what risks are you taking in that process?

WEEKLY UPDATE

People in our culture aren't generally offended by the idea of God. Many people think it's cool to talk about an unseen force, a higher power, spirituality or whatever. But try proposing to those same people that God is the Creator of the Universe, the Almighty One, the God who has revealed Himself in Scripture, and ultimately in Christ, the One deserving of all honor and praise, the One to whom we will all be accountable — you may get some push-back.

We're going to a battlefield this weekend, a place called Mt. Carmel, right on the edge of Armageddon in Israel. It's a battle between all that is God and all that is not. It's time to pick sides.