

May 20, 2018

Teaching Notes

Series: Forgotten God

Week 7 God or Bust!

What if we expected God to be unmistakably visible or we would consider our lives a bust?

1 Kings 18:30-39 (NLT) ³⁰ Then Elijah called to the people, “Come over here!” They all crowded around him as he repaired the altar of the LORD that had been torn down. ³¹ He took twelve stones, one to represent each of the tribes of Israel, ³² and he used the stones to rebuild the altar in the name of the LORD. Then he dug a trench around the altar large enough to hold about three gallons. ³³ He piled wood on the altar, cut the bull into pieces, and laid the pieces on the wood. Then he said, “Fill four large jars with water, and pour the water over the offering and the wood.” ³⁴ After they had done this, he said, “Do the same thing again!” And when they were finished, he said, “Now do it a third time!” So they did as he said, ³⁵ and the water ran around the altar and even filled the trench. ³⁶ At the usual time for offering the evening sacrifice, Elijah the prophet walked up to the altar and prayed, “O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, prove today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant. Prove that I have done all this at your command. ³⁷ O LORD, answer me! Answer me so these people will know that you, O LORD, are God and that you have brought them back to yourself.” ³⁸ Immediately the fire of the LORD flashed down from heaven and burned up the young bull, the wood, the stones, and the dust. It even licked up all the water in the trench! ³⁹ And when all the people saw it, they fell face down on the ground and cried out, “The LORD—he is God! Yes, the LORD is God!”

“What if God doesn’t show up and I’m left standing here looking stupid?”

²¹ Then Elijah stood in front of them and said, “How much longer will you waver, hobbling between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him! But if Baal is God, then follow him!” But the people were completely silent.

They wanted _____ - _____, *not* _____ - _____!

When people see us doing life... do they see us, or do they see God at work in us?

James 5:17a (NLT) ¹⁷ Elijah was as human as we are...

**It’s hard to believe that God wants us holding _____
_____ for our lives and for the church!**

Matt 5:13-16 (NLT) ¹³ “You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless. ¹⁴ “You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

Let’s pledge that from this moment on, we will daily reaffirm that we are the Bride of Christ... that we have a *crucial* role to play in the story of His church in our time!!

Our series is _____ but living supernaturally, is just _____!!

Next Steps:

- ask God to *raise our expectations* for the presence and work of His Spirit in our lives.

Closing Song: What if I Gave Everything? by Casting Crowns