

## Days of Elijah pt5 – Confront the Enemies of Your Faith

Dr. John Carmichael

[1Ki 18:20-40 NASB95] 20 So Ahab sent [a message] among all the sons of Israel and brought the prophets together at Mount Carmel. 21 Elijah came near to all the people and said, "How long [will] you hesitate between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him." But the people did not answer him a word. 22 Then Elijah said to the people, "I alone am left a prophet of the LORD, but Baal's prophets are 450 men. 23 "Now let them give us two oxen; and let them choose one ox for themselves and cut it up, and place it on the wood, but put no fire [under it;] and I will prepare the other ox and lay it on the wood, and I will not put a fire [under it.] 24 "Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the LORD, and the God who answers by fire, He is God." And all the people said, "That is a good idea." 25 So Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "Choose one ox for yourselves and prepare it first for you are many, and call on the name of your god, but put no fire [under it.]" 26 Then they took the ox which was given them and they prepared it and called on the name of Baal from morning until noon saying, "O Baal, answer us." But there was no voice and no one answered. And they leaped about the altar which they made. 27 It came about at noon, that Elijah mocked them and said, "Call out with a loud voice, for he is a god; either he is occupied or gone aside, or is on a journey, or perhaps he is asleep and needs to be awakened." 28 So they cried with a loud voice and cut themselves according to their custom with swords and lances until the blood gushed out on them. 29 When midday was past, they raved until the time of the offering of the [evening] sacrifice; but there was no voice, no one answered, and no one paid attention. 30 Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come near to me." So all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD which had been torn down. 31 Elijah took twelve stones according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD had come, saying, "Israel shall be your name." 32 So with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD, and he made a trench around the altar, large enough to hold two measures of seed. 33 Then he arranged the wood and cut the ox in pieces and laid [it] on the wood. 34 And he said, "Fill four pitchers with water and pour [it] on the burnt offering and on the wood." And he said, "Do it a second time," and they did it a second time. And he said, "Do it a third time," and they did it a third time. 35 The water flowed around the altar and he also filled the trench with water. 36 At the time of the offering of the [evening] sacrifice, Elijah the prophet came near and said, "O LORD, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, today let it be known that You are God in Israel and that I am Your servant and I have done all these things at Your word. 37 "Answer me, O LORD, answer me, that this people may know that You, O LORD, are God, and [that] You have turned their heart back again." 38 Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. 39 When all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, "The LORD, He is God; the LORD, He is God." 40 Then Elijah said to them, "Seize the prophets of Baal; do not let one of them escape." So they seized them; and Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon, and slew them there.

- God calls us to confront the enemies of our faith. Those enemies can be internal or external. They can be spiritual, emotional, biological, financial, or relational. These enemies might be global, national, or individualized.
- The enemies of your faith are trying to get you to stop serving Jesus and distract you from fulfilling your call.
- Elijah confronted Ahab and the priests of Baal. Ahab and the priests of Baal have all but destroyed the faith of the people of Israel. There was a small remnant of God-fearing people. The rest of the people were mixed in their devotion to God. God called Elijah to confront the enemies of the faith.

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How does God want us to confront the enemies of our faith?

Elijah gives us a blueprint for confronting the enemies of our faith.

### I. God wants us to be totally devoted to Him.

- a. V. 21
- b. [Jos 24:15 NASB95] 15 "If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."
- c. [Mat 6:24 NASB95] 24 "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.
- d. FB – to be separate means fearing God, hating sin, false teaching, injustice, improper relationships with hypocrites, and total devotion to God's perspective.
- e. [Luk 9:62 NASB95] 62 But Jesus said to him, "No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."
- f. [Jhn 21:22 NASB95] 22 Jesus said to him, "If I want him to remain until I come, what [is that] to you? You follow Me!"
- g. No more trying to serve the world, the flesh, and the devil. No more looking around at other people or considering other options. Single focus.

### II. God wants us to be bold in confronting the enemy.

- a. V. 27
- b. Elijah was mocking the enemies of the faith. Maybe "a euphemism for bodily elimination." (Patterson and Austel)
- c. [Mar 11:17 NASB95] 17 And He [began] to teach and say to them, "Is it not written, 'MY HOUSE SHALL BE CALLED A HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL THE NATIONS'? But you have made it a ROBBERS' DEN."
- d. Remember David when he confronted Goliath.
- e. It is time to be bold as a lion about confronting the enemies of our faith.

### III. God wants us to live with unlimited faith in Him.

- a. V. 30-35
- b. Elijah created an adverse situation for fire: water. This was done to demonstrate the power of God in any situation.
- c. [Eph 3:20-21 NASB95] 20 Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, 21 to Him [be] the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.
- d. Take limits off of God. [Psa 78:41 NASB95] 41 Again and again they tempted God, And pained the Holy One of Israel. (to set marks or limits. Gesenius' Hebrew-Chaldee Lexicon) (marked, outlined, sketched, designed – Klein Dictionary)

### IV. God wants us to pray intense prayers.

- a. V. 36-38
- b. "It was no whim of his to chastise the nation with a drought. It was no scheme of his, concocted in his own brain that he should put the Godhead of Jehovah or of Baal to the test by a sacrifice to be consumed by miraculous fire." (Spurgeon)
- c. This intense prayer had the following:
  - i. Acknowledged God
  - ii. Declared his position before God.
  - iii. Based upon the Word of God.

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- iv. Was declarative, “Hear me... hear me...”
  - v. Was not just about him but also focused upon the Lord and others.
  - d. No more small prayers. [Psa 81:10 NASB95] 10 "I, the LORD, am your God, Who brought you up from the land of Egypt; Open your mouth wide and I will fill it.
- **When confronting the enemies of our faith, God wants us to be totally devoted to Him in boldness, unlimited faith, and intense prayers.**