

# Heart Matters – Faith that stands firm

1 Kings 18: 41 – 19: 9

## 1. The story so far

- Glory to ruin
- Ahab – did more evil in the eyes of the Lord than any of those before him.
- Elijah prays and there is a drought for 3 years
- The contest on Mount Carmel
- 1 against 450 – the Living God against Baal
- “The Lord, he is God, The Lord, he is God”

## 2. Wholehearted – a heart for God’s glory

- 450 prophets of Baal killed
- God is Holy, God is just, God is merciful
- Deuteronomy 20 - Judgement
- Matthew 26:22 - Mercy
- Revelation 19: 11-21 - Judgement

## 3. Wholehearted – Putting sin to death

- For our struggle is not against flesh and blood but...
- Elijah prays!
- Elijah runs! Man beats chariot.

## 4. Wholehearted – working with God

- God acts – the sacrifice burns
- Elijah prays – rain returns
- Elijah – a man like us!
- God draws us into a partnership with him

## 5. Wholehearted – and realistic

- Jezebel doesn’t give up
- Elijah was afraid
- I have had enough Lord!
- Rest food and shelter.
- The battle won the war continues

## Week 5 Elijah Prays, Elijah runs!

Read 1 Kings 18: 41 – 46

1. How can Elijah tell Ahab that there is the sound of a heavy rain?
2. Ahab goes off to eat and drink. What does Elijah do? What do we learn from Elijah's priorities?
3. Elijah prays persistently. Why doesn't he give up? What areas of your life require persistent prayer? What do we learn from these passages that help us to keep going?
4. Elijah outruns the king's chariot. Divine power! Is this something for all God's people?

Read 1 Kings 19 1 – 2

1. Ahab tells Jezebel what happened on Mt Carmel. What do you think were Ahab's thoughts and emotions like in this conversation? What caused these thoughts and emotions?
2. Jezebel proves a formidable enemy of Elijah and God. Why are we surprised by the power and tenacity of evil?
3. Ahab stands by as his queen acts to have Elijah killed. Having seen God's power on Mt Carmel, why can't he deal with Jezebel?

Read 1 Kings 19 3 – 9

1. Ministry is hard work and draining. Elijah threatened and now exhausted wants to give up. Is this a part of faith or is he proving faithless? What makes you want to give up?
2. God cares for Elijah. Hospitality has a healing impact. How do we care well for one another?
3. God provides rest, food and warmth for Elijah. How do create times of rest and recuperation into our church's life and ministries?