

Heart Matters – Faith that stands firm

1 Kings 18: 1 - 40

1. God speaks 1 Kings 18: 1

- Go to Ahab and I will send rain

2. Faithful but fearful

- Obadiah a devout believer in charge of the palace!
- Jezebel was killing off the Lord's prophets
- What have I done wrong?
- As surely as the Lord your God lives...
- Haven't you heard what I did?

3. Faithful but disconnected

- 100 prophets – safe and fed
- They knew God was at work
- Disconnected

4. Elijah has a heart for God

- Truth matters – 'you have abandoned the Lord's commands'
- How long will you sit on the fence?
- 'Answer me so that these people will know that you, O Lord, are God and that you are turning their hearts back again.'
- The Lord he is God!

You, O Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness. Psalm 86:15

Digging Deeper

Read 1 Kings 18: 1 – 15

1. In verses 2 – 6 we read about what was happening in Israel while Elijah was hiding at the brook and in Sidon. What would it have been like to serve God in Israel at this time?
2. Obadiah is a man who serves God and the King! The text does not make comment on his actions or those of the 100 prophets he hid in the two caves. Do you think they were right to act as they did?
3. Obadiah is a fearful man, yet a man of God. What can we learn from him that will help us stand firm in tough situations?

Read 1 Kings 18: 16 – 40

1. Who was the troubler of Israel? Verse 16. Who was responsible for this trouble?
2. Elijah issue the challenge to King Ahab. We do not read that God told him to set this challenge. Did Elijah act on his own and if he did what does this teach us about faith and risk?
3. Elijah tells the prophets of Baal to go first. How do you think these prophets felt the challenge? What about the onlookers who had come to watch?
4. Elijah makes fun of the prophets. What was he trying to accomplish and was he right to ridicule them?
5. Elijah makes sure the people see him repair the altar of the Lord. He takes 12 stones even though the kingdom is divided. What lies behind these actions?
6. What can we learn from his prayer in verses 36 – 37?
7. The people respond declaring the Lord is God! The 450 prophets are killed. What would you expect the long term impact of this event to be?
8. Why is that miracles rarely have a long term impact on people?