



## The Showdown: *A Duel Between God and Baal* (1 Kings 18:1-39) Truth to Power (Part 5)

### THE BIG IDEA

- In the face of evil God's people are to stand and speak God's truth, even when in the minority. Both Obadiah and Elijah were faced with fearful situations but chose to glorify God and fear Him above the false (little "g") gods of the Israelites. Our small daily decisions of obedience to God's Word will affect the big decisions of faithfulness.

### OPENING

- Go around the room and take turns reading the entire account of Elijah and the prophets of Baal.
- What are reasons Christians remain silent in the face of evil? What fears might keep Christians silent?

### DIGGING DEEPER

- What do we learn about Obadiah's fears, courage and obedience? (1Kings 18:3-16) If you were in Obadiah's situation what might you have done?
- Elijah confronts Israel's unfaithfulness and indecision as they tried to straddle the fence and worship both The LORD and Baal. (1Kings 18:21). He says that they are "limping", "wavering", and "crippled and lame" in their faith. What is the danger of syncretism (the mixing of two or more religions) and how do we see it creeping into our lives today?
- What currently competes with your love and service to Jesus in terms of time, focus, commitment, and taking a stand against evil? In 1 Kings:18:21 it says the people did not answer—how is not making a decision actually making a decision?
- How does Elijah speak truth to power? (1Kings 18:18, 21, 36-37, 40) How does he use humor, mockery and sarcasm to make his point? (1Kings 18:27)



- Compare and contrast the prophets of Baal and Elijah (1 Kings 18:26, 28-29, 36-37, James 5:17-18) and Baal and Yahweh (1 Kings 18:26b, 29b, 38).

## PUTTING IT TO WORK

- Consider these quotes:
  - *“Silence in the face of evil is itself evil: God will not hold us guiltless. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act.”* Dietrich Bonhoeffer
  - *“There comes a time when silence is betrayal. Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter. In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.”* Dr. Martin Luther King
  - *“One man or woman and God is a majority!”* John Knox.
- How might God be challenging you to speak truth to evil?
  
- Elijah challenged the Israelites to choose between God and Baal, Joshua challenged the Israelites to choose this day whom they would serve. What daily choices is God calling you to make so that you will be a faithful, godly witness for Him?

## PRAYER REQUESTS