

ULC Sermon Study Resource
Still Standing // Standing to Speak
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October 31, 2021

Prayer: Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

Icebreaker: What's your go to stress reliever after a rough day?

Reading: 1 Kings 18:20-40

Outline:

- I. There is no neutral (v. 20-24)
 - a. Here Elijah seeks to show the Israelites that there is no middle ground in following the Lord; either you worship God, or you don't
 - b. It's our human nature to serve something, so if we're not serving God, then we're serving something else
Q: What was the Israelites initial response to Elijah's correction?
- II. The Lies of Idolatry (v. 25-29)
 - a. Instead of realizing that their worship was falling on deaf ears, Baal's prophets worshiped even harder; To the point of self-harm in attempt to be heard
 - b. While some idols may seem to promise everything we want, they always deliver nothing
Q: How did Baal's prophets respond when their idol didn't?
- III. The Truth of the Gospel (v. 30-40)
 - a. Elijah gave every advantage to Baal's prophets, and even added to the difficulty of his own success, and still God prevailed
 - b. We have the power to stand in the way of God prevailing in our lives and over our struggles, but when turned to and called upon, there's nothing He can't do
Q: Why did the Israelites not face the same fate as Baal's prophets?

Reflection/Application Questions:

- 1) What are some idols people struggle with today?
- 2) How can idols blind us and prevent us from listening to the truth of God's word?
- 3) Why can it be easy to buy into the lies of idolatry?
- 4) How can we actively seek awareness of the idols we struggle with?
- 5) How does faith in Christ help us overcome idolatry?

Suggestions for further study:

- Luke 16:13 **Q: What actions or situations distract you from hearing God's voice?**
- Luke 14:33 **Q: Is there anything other than God you would struggle to live without?**
- Isaiah 29:13 **Q: How can the state of our hearts honor God?**

Closing Prayer:

Lord God, we thank you that you are a God who acts. You're not distant and removed, but you're active in our lives. You've called us to yourself, you provide for us daily, and above all you acted by sending your son Jesus into this world. To bear our sin, save us from idolatry, and to bring us to you. So God, may we trust, celebrate, and worship you who acts in our life now and always. We pray this is Jesus' holy name, Amen.