

Old Testament Sermon Outline No: 2

Subject: Principles of Revival

Textual context: Book of 1 Kings 17-18

Introduction

Elijah is a dynamic personality. He suddenly appears in scripture in 1 Kings 17 in dramatic fashion. He stands before King Ahab, an evil king, and pronounces a drought for as long as he determines and leaves the king in total confusion,

For three years Elijah does many exploits but then appears before the king after three years and sets up a contest in 1 Kings 18:19. He was to gather all Israel to him on Mount Carmel together with the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal, and the four hundred prophets of Asherah.

The contest is arranged. Each side were to prepare a bullock and offer it to their God. But no fire was to be put under it; The God that answers by fire was to be God. All day the false prophets chanted, went into frenzy and even cut themselves but to no avail.

In the evening Elijah drew the people together.

Sermon outline

Notice the order of the sacrifice See 1 Kings 18:30-37

1. Repair the altar
2. Dig a trench
3. Put the wood in order
4. Drench with water
5. Pray

1 Repair the Altar

True personal and national revival will only come if the foundations are right. The Church is built on the foundation of the Prophets and Apostles. (Eph 2:20) Not upon the vision of the leader of a denomination or charismatic pastor. A local church should keep going back to the Church's original roots. The Creeds are important to check where the Church is at.

2. Dig a trench.

Christians and the expression of the local church must be separated from the world. Its culture must not be over duly influenced by the present attitudes and views of its secular society. What we are is holy and what we do should be holy. Without holiness no one will see the Lord. (Heb 12:14)

3. Put the wood in order.

The wood in this instance is sin. Many people try to deal with major sin in their lives without understanding that it is the little sins that need to be dealt with first. No one lighting a fire puts the heavy log on first but puts small pieces of wood in order that when lit the small catches the large log. It is the same with sins. The small sins, left to themselves become larger as our consciences are seared. For revival to happen - put the wood in order.

4. Drench with water.

The water speaks to us of the Word of God and Holy Spirit. Each must have a vital part in the life of the individual and the local Church. Is the word of God faithfully preached? Is the Holy Spirit allowed to lead the leadership? The individual life, the Word of God should be our daily food. The Spirit should be able to lead us into all truth in matters of theology and in our personal walk with God.

Elijah drenched the sacrifice three times with precious water. It could be seen as a waste of precious resources but it is important that our lives are drenched with both the Word and the Spirit.

5. Pray

Elijah prayed just sixty-two words and the fire fell. The secret is in the prayer. It was not aimless as many of our prayers tend to be. He said in his prayer 'I have done all these things at your word (1 Kings 18:36). We need to wait on the Lord and be guided by Him even to know what to pray (See Rom 8:28).

In the Isle of Harris in the Outer Hebrides in Scotland, two ladies prayed for twenty years before revival hit the Isles in 1956. Ten years later there was a church of 3,500 members in this small collection of islands.

Conclusion

Put your sacrificial life in order. (Rom 12:1). See God doing mighty exploits in his name.