**SERMON OUTLINE**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **SERMON TITLE:** | Enemies of Revival |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | 1 Kings 18:1-6, 17-39 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #2128 |
|  |  |
| We are grateful for the opportunity to provide this outline produced from a sermon preached by Adrian Rogers while serving as pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tennessee. This outline is intended for your personal, non-commercial use.  In order to ensure our ability to be good stewards of Adrian Rogers’ messages, Love Worth Finding has reserved all rights to this content.  Except for your personal, non-commercial use and except for brief quotations in printed reviews, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means —electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or any other— without the prior permission of the publisher.  Copyright ©2024 Love Worth Finding Ministries, Inc. | |

1. INTRODUCTION
   1. We are a nation in crisis.
      1. Whether we know it or not, these are desperate days in which we live.
   2. We need revival.
      1. Revival is a shop-worn word.
         1. Many of us do not know what revival is.
         2. Others do not believe that it is possible.
      2. We need an old-fashioned, fire from Heaven, life-transforming, Christ-honoring, and soul-saving revival.
   3. There are those who think that we are past the days of revival.
      1. But there is no evidence that says that we cannot have revival in these last days.
      2. We must disabuse ourselves of the notion that it is too late.
   4. Matthew 28:19-20
      1. The Lord’s power has not diminished.
   5. 1 Kings 18 is a story of revival in dark days.
   6. In today’s message, we will look at what took place so long ago.
      1. Because what God has done before, God can do and will do again under the same circumstances.
2. the enemies of revival (1 kings 18:1-6)
   1. The compromisers
      1. 1 Kings 18:1-6
         1. Elijah was the prophet.
         2. Ahab was the king.
         3. For three-and-a-half years, it had not rained because of the judgment of Almighty God.
            1. In the Old Testament, a physical famine many times illustrated a famine for the Word of God.

There was a famine for the Word of God in the northern kingdom of Samaria, what we call Israel.

* + 1. Obadiah was in league with Ahab.
       1. Ahab was a wicked king.
       2. Obadiah was the governor of Ahab’s house.
    2. Obadiah was a believer.
       1. The Bible tells us that Obadiah was a child of God.
          1. He feared God greatly.
       2. But Obadiah had no spiritual power because he had sold himself out to the world.
          1. He was in league with one of the most wicked kings that Israel had ever known.
       3. There was a drought in the land, and Obadiah was looking for grass when he should have been praying for rain.
    3. Obadiah was like many Christians in the world today.
       1. They line up with the enemy rather than stand for Almighty God.
       2. They have no power or influence because they have sold out to the world.
    4. Obadiah was like Lot.
       1. 2 Peter 2:8
          1. Lot was grieved with the way the Sodomites were living, but he continued to live with them.

He continued to go his own way.

* + - 1. When judgment came, Lot tried to save his family.
         1. But his sons-in-law mocked him.

Lot had lost his testimony.

* + 1. Obadiah was like Samson.
       1. Samson was a man of God, anointed with the Holy Spirit of God.
          1. But he compromised with the world.
       2. Samson did not know that the Spirit of the Lord had departed from him.
    2. Obadiah represents many people in churches who are backslidden and compromised.
       1. They are salt without savor.
       2. They are the heartbreak of God.
       3. They are the alibis of the lost and the stumbling blocks to the saved.
    3. If you are a child of God and are in league with this world, then part of the problem is yours.
       1. Romans 14:22
    4. Many people are compromised Christians.
       1. There is nothing wrong in America that cannot be radically and swiftly put right if all of the people of God would stand up and speak up and if our pulpits were aflame with the power of God.
       2. We have too many Obadiahs.
  1. The corrupters
     1. 1 Kings 18:17-18
     2. On the throne was a wicked king named Ahab.
        1. He had a wicked wife named Jezebel.
     3. Ahab was the epitome of evil.
        1. He was doubly dangerous because he used religious talk.
           1. He talked about being a believer.
     4. 1 Kings 16:30-33
        1. Ahab casually sinned.
        2. Baal was a sex god, a fertility god.
           1. Part of the worship of this god was the sacrificing of babies.
        3. The king, who was supposed to be the leader over God’s people, encouraged pagan worship and the sacrifice of babies.
     5. Ahab had a form of godliness.
        1. He used religious language, but he was mastered by his own pride and lust.
     6. Ahab was greatly influenced by his wife.
     7. There are many enemies of the Gospel today, and there are many forces that would hold us back from revival.
        1. They hate all that we stand for.
           1. To them, we are troublemakers.
           2. We are the thorns in their flesh.
        2. We should speak up.
           1. Isaiah 58:1
        3. The Ahabs and Jezebels cannot hold back revival, but the Obadiahs can.
           1. These are the people of God who refuse to take the stand that they should take.
     8. The actions of the king, the actions of the court, and the actions of the president can never thwart the power and the plan of Almighty God.
        1. Psalm 2:4
        2. Daniel 4:17
        3. God is above all.
           1. There is no panic in Heaven.
  2. The confused
     1. 1 Kings 18:19-21
        1. Elijah called for a contest.
        2. There were people who were on the fence.
           1. They did not have enough grace to serve God.
           2. They did not have enough courage to serve the devil.
     2. Why is there so much ambivalence?
        1. People have not seen enough in the church to convince them one way or the other.
        2. The world does not need a new definition of the Gospel.
           1. It needs a new demonstration of the Gospel.
     3. The church of the Lord God today has lost its power.
        1. We are like salt without savor.
           1. Matthew 5:13
           2. In Bible times, if salt was left outside in the elements, then the very bite and flavor would leach out of it.

It would be a nauseous mess on the ground.

It would be worthless.

There was one thing that could be done with that kind of salt.

It would be put on the roadways because it would cake and harden and become like soil cement.

It was good for nothing but to be cast out and trodden under feet of men.

* + - * 1. The church is being walked on today because we are salt without savor.
        2. Salt stings and irritates, but salt also heals and purifies.
      1. On the day of Pentecost, the power of God came in such a way that the people were amazed and could not explain it.
         1. They asked, “What does this mean?”
         2. Then, they asked, “What must we do?”

Many of us have been trying to get people to ask the second question before they ask the first question.

* + - 1. What have people seen about you that they cannot explain?
         1. When people see the power of God in our lives and start asking what it means, maybe then they will begin to ask, “What must we do?”
    1. 1 Kings 18:21
  1. The competitors
     1. 1 Kings 18:22-29
        1. The man of God was Elijah.
        2. The competition were those who were demon inspired.
           1. They were the 450 priests of Baal.
        3. God’s people in that day were in the minority.
           1. Elijah was in the minority.
           2. Today, we are in the minority.
     2. Humanism, demonism, witchcraft, and sheer unbelief surround us.
        1. These are represented by the priests of Baal.
     3. In spite of all of these, they cannot hold back revival.
        1. 1 John 4:4
           1. We have the Holy Spirit, who is greater than the spirit of evil.
     4. Elijah said that they would have a contest.
        1. The priests of Baal would pray to their god.
        2. Elijah would pray to his God.
        3. The one who answered by fire would be God.
     5. Elijah was not afraid to let the priests of Baal pray.
        1. The great danger is not that the people of Baal pray, but that the people of God do not pray.
     6. The test was not figures, finances, or favor, but fire.

1. the elements of revival (1 kings 18:30-32)
   1. There must be solidarity.
      1. There must be a unifying of the people of God.
      2. 1 Kings 18:30-32
         1. The altar was broken down.
            1. The unity of Israel was divided.
         2. When Elijah took twelve stones and built an altar, he was saying that they needed to restore their unity.
            1. God brings us together.
            2. The devil divides us.
            3. The altar unites us.
      3. What was prevalent on the day of Pentecost was that the people were united.
         1. Acts 2:1
      4. The devil hates unity.
      5. Psalm 133:1
      6. We need to unify the body of Christ.
         1. We need a unity that will pass over denominational lines.
            1. This is speaking of people who are blood-bought brothers and sisters in Christ.
      7. John 17:21
      8. We should not divide over unnecessary things.
      9. The very first thing that the man of God did was to get the people of God together.
      10. Like a mighty army, when we get together, we can do wonderful and glorious things.
   2. There must be separation.
      1. 1 Kings 18:32
         1. After the altar was built, Elijah dug a trench.
            1. It was a line of demarcation to separate the worshippers of Jehovah from the worshippers of Baal.

There is the altar fellowship, and there is the idol fellowship.

* + 1. We cannot have unity with those who do not believe the great fundamental truths of the Word of God.
       1. Amos 3:3
       2. James 4:4
    2. When someone fellowships with this world, they commit high treason against Heaven’s King.
  1. There must be sacrifice.
     1. 1 Kings 18:33
        1. Every sacrifice in the Old Testament pointed toward Calvary.
        2. This represents the precious blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.
     2. When the Lord Jesus Christ died on the cross, Satan’s back was broken.
        1. John 12:31
     3. What Elijah did was to typify, picture, and portray the person and work of our Lord Jesus Christ.
        1. It was at the time of the evening sacrifice when Elijah did this.
           1. This typified God’s appointed time of the death of Jesus on the cross.
     4. The hope of America is the blood of Jesus.
        1. It is the power of Christ on the cross that has absolutely decimated the kingdom of Satan.
        2. It is the blood that is the basis of our warfare.
           1. Revelation 12:11
  2. There must be spiritual power.
     1. 1 Kings 18:33-35
        1. The test was fire.
        2. When Elijah was pouring the water on the sacrifice, he was doing the following:
           1. He was showing that this was not some spontaneous combustion that was about to happen.
           2. He was saying that there is nothing too hard for God.

God is Almighty.

Many people believe that the situation is too great for God.

* + 1. In the Bible, water is a symbol of the Word of God and the Spirit of God.
       1. Ephesians 5:26
       2. Isaiah 44:3
       3. John 7:38-39
       4. This is not just empty symbolism.
          1. This is in the Word of God to teach us something.
  1. There must be supplication.
     1. 1 Kings 18:36-37
        1. This prayer was precise.
           1. Elijah knew what he was asking.
           2. So much of our praying is meaningless generalities.

Matthew 6:7

* + - 1. This prayer was powerful.
         1. It was the time of the evening offering.

The basis of this prayer was a bloody sacrifice.

Hebrews 10:19

* + - 1. This prayer was purposeful.
         1. 1 Kings 18:37

Elijah’s zeal was for the glory of God.

* + - * 1. Do you want your prayers answered?

Then, let your zeal be for the glory of God.

This is what it means to pray in Jesus’ name.

Jesus prayed this way in John 12:28.

The problem is that we try to have revival for our country’s sake, our family’s sake, our children’s sake, or our church’s sake.

We need to be more concerned for the glory of God.

1. the evidences of revival (1 kings 18:38-39)
   1. 1 Kings 18:38-39
      1. “*The Lord, He is the God*.”
         1. He is the one and only.
         2. He is not a god; He is the God.
   2. The test was fire.
      1. Holy Spirit fire from Heaven.
   3. Revival fire is the following:
      1. It is fire that consumes.
         1. Hebrews 12:29
         2. The fire that fell consumed the sacrifice, the wood, the stones, and the water that was in the trench round about it.
         3. The fire ultimately will fall.
            1. Either the fire will fall on the sacrifice (the Lord Jesus) on our behalf, or it will fall on us.
            2. We will face fire, whether it is judgment fire or the fire of cleansing.
      2. It is fire that convicts.
         1. 1 Kings 18:39
         2. We need today fire that consumes and fire that convicts.
            1. We need a supernatural demonstration of the power of God.
      3. It is fire that converts.
         1. 1 Kings 18:39
         2. When revival comes, multiplied millions can be swept into the Kingdom of God.
2. CONCLUSION
   1. We are looking for revival that cannot be explained.
   2. We are looking for something that is absolutely of God and not someone’s program, propaganda, or preaching.
      1. A revival of God where the fire of God falls.
         1. Fire that consumes.
         2. Fire that convicts.
         3. Fire that converts.
   3. We need God in America again.
   4. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   5. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31
      5. John 3:16