

1 Kings 18:29

And when midday was past, they prophesied until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice. But there was no voice; no one answered, no one paid attention.

When you read today's devotional verse, you were probably wondering what it means? Well, to understand it, you have to read back several verses, actually you should start at the beginning of chapter 18 in 1 Kings.

But a real quick overview would be, this was a contest of sorts between the prophets of Baal, and Elijah the prophet of God. They both were to build an altar and place the sacrifice on their altar. One thing different was that they would not light the fire for the sacrifice. Instead, they would wait on their god/God to light the fire for the burnt offering.

So the prophets of Baal went first. They spent all day calling out to their god. They would cut themselves, as blood would pour out of these cuts on their bodies (it was part of their worship ceremony) and they begged their false god to lite their sacrifice on fire. But nothing, even Elijah started to mock them because nothing was happening, no matter how much noise they made or how much they cut themselves. And the response from their false god we read in today's devotional verse.

† *But there was no voice; no one answered, no one paid attention.*

Does all this sound a little familiar? Have you cried out to the bank to give you a loan, or maybe to your boss to give you a raise. You cry out to your credit cards to save you from the mess you are in? Maybe you cried out to your alcohol or your over eating habits to comfort you, *But there was no voice; no one answered, no one paid attention.*

So, after the prophets of Baal wasted a day calling out to their false god and got no answer, it became Elijah's turn. If you read the story, not only did Elijah build the altar and put the sacrifice on it, he also had them dig a trench around it and poured gallons upon gallons of water on it so the trench around it was filled with water and the sacrifice was soaking wet. And then, well, let's read it from the bible.

† **1 Kings 18:36-39** *And it came to pass, at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near and said, "LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that You are God in Israel and I am Your servant, and that I have done all these things at Your word. Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that You are the LORD God, and that You have turned their hearts back to You again." Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that was*

in the trench. Now when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, "The LORD, He is God! The LORD, He is God!"

But there is one part I left out, and that's how this whole thing came together in the first place, and the answer is earlier on in the chapter:

† **1 Kings 18:20-21** *So Ahab sent for all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together on Mount Carmel. And Elijah came to all the people, and said, "How long will you falter between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him." But the people answered him not a word.*

You may be thinking you have tried calling out to God and no answer. But, did you call out to God as a last resort? Have you been living like the prophets of Baal serving the world and not the Lord? Who is your God or god? Do you go back and forth between God and the world?

James says this about those who do.

† **James 1:7-8** *For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.*

Jesus also said this about those who do this as well.

† **Revelation 3:15-16** *I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.*

It's time to stop playing around with God and your walk with Him.

† *"How long will you falter between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him."*

Don't be like the children of Israel *But the people answered him not a word.*

Today it's time to make that choice once and for all.

† **Joshua 24:15** *And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.*

And once you make that choice to truly and fully follow the Lord with all your heart, pray that those who see this will also cry out: *Now when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, "The LORD, He is God! The LORD, He is God!"*