



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Discovery Digs Series, Lesson 4

Lesson Title: Showdown on Mt. Carmel

Take Home Point: Worship the only true God.

Warm-Up:

Imagine a husband and wife sitting in the doctor's office. The doctor has just told them that the husband's condition is very serious – fatal, in fact – but death can be averted by following a regimen of medication. After talking about it for a few minutes, the wife asks if there are any other ways for her husband's condition to be treated. The doctor tells her no, this is the only way his life can be saved. She gets indignant and replies, "What do you mean, your way is the only way? That seems quite intolerant of other possibilities for healing! How close-minded of you! Who do you think you are to say it's the only way? We are going to another doctor and see what he says about this. We'll find another way!" Meanwhile, what do you suppose the husband is thinking? He is more than willing to do whatever in order to save his life!

Read: 1 Kings 18:17-45; Matthew 4:10b

Observation (What happened?):

How did the Israelites respond to Elijah's questions and commands?

How long did it take for the Lord to respond to Elijah's prayer?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

What was important about Elijah using water? What had happened in Israel the past three years?

What was significant about Elijah rebuilding the altar that was in ruins?

Insight:

What is worship? How do we worship the one true God? Worship is what the word sounds like: worth – ship, e.g., ascribing worth to someone or something. And who has more worth than the Creator and Sustainer of everything? Anything that gets between God and us has the potential to be an idol. God is jealous for our worship, and makes it very clear. 2 Kings 17:14,15 says this of the Israelites: *"But they would not listen and were as stiff-necked as their fathers, who did not trust in the LORD their God. They followed worthless idols and themselves became worthless."* God repeats the very same thing in Jeremiah 2:5. In fact, God uses the word "worthless" fifteen times in Jeremiah to describe the idols that were the objects of worship to the Israelites. In Isaiah 42:8, he tells us, *"I am the LORD; that is my name! I will not give my glory to another or my praise to idols."* What are today's idols Satan uses to distract Christians and non-Christians to turn their worship from the true God? Anything. Of course, we are aware of false religions and material goods, but what about attitudes of superiority or human ideals? We must always be alert to anything or anyone that comes between us and our Almighty Eternal God.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

Is there part of your life that needs to be rebuilt from the ruins of sin? What will you do about it?

Pray for the children in your small group to always remember the one true God.

Lesson 4