



FOOTHILLS COMMUNITY CHURCH | LIFE NOTES

FORK IN THE ROAD: WEEK 5

SYNOPSIS OF SERIES

Are you longing for greater impact for Christ? A great way to grow in our spiritual influence is by learning from the lives and examples of Godly men and women who have gone before us. The prophet Elijah had a profound influence upon his generation. In his day, Israel was a dark place: Evil kings ruled. Pagan gods were worshipped. Life was cheap. Morality didn't matter. It seemed as if everyone had forgotten Yahweh, the God of Israel. It was in this environment that God raised-up the prophet Elijah to be his voice. Though very imperfect, unqualified, and unrefined, Elijah had an enormous spiritual impact. No one could be around the prophet for very long, before they found themselves making a decision for or against the God of Israel. Elijah was...a fork in the road

GETTING STARTED

What is your favorite movie showdown of all time?

Are you typically someone who roots for the favorite or the underdog?

DIGGING DEEPER

Read 1 Kings 18:22-25

Then Elijah said to them, "I am the only one of the Lord's prophets left, but Baal has four hundred and fifty prophets." ²³ Get two bulls for us. Let Baal's prophets choose one for themselves, and let them cut it into pieces and put it on the wood but not set fire to it. I will prepare the other bull and put it on the wood but not set fire to it. ²⁴ Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the Lord. The god who answers by fire—he is God." Then all the people said, "What you say is good."²⁵ Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "Choose one of the bulls and prepare it first, since there are so many of you. Call on the name of your god, but do not light the fire."

Why is Elijah getting to call the shots here? Why is he allowed to make the rules?

Why would Elijah give up the right to go first, to throw the first punch?

Read 1 Kings 18:26-29

²⁶ So they took the bull given them and prepared it. Then they called on the name of Baal from morning till noon. "Baal, answer us!" they shouted. But there was no response; no one answered. And they danced around the altar they had made. ²⁷ At noon Elijah began to taunt them. "Shout louder!" he said. "Surely he is a god! Perhaps he is deep in thought, or busy, or traveling. Maybe he is sleeping and must be awakened." ²⁸ So they shouted louder and slashed themselves with swords and spears, as was their custom, until their blood flowed. ²⁹ Midday passed, and they continued their frantic prophesying until the time for the evening sacrifice.

When you read about this scene, what goes through your mind?

Do you consider this moment a spiritual battle? Why or why not?

Can you think of a time where you were in a spiritual battle? A time where there was more going on than just what could be seen.

Read 1 Kings 18:30-32

³⁰ Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come here to me." They came to him, and he repaired the altar of the Lord, which had been torn down. ³¹ Elijah took twelve stones, one for each of the tribes descended from Jacob, to whom the word of the Lord had come, saying, "Your name shall be Israel." ³² With the

stones he built an altar in the name of the Lord, and he dug a trench around it large enough to hold two seahs of seed.

On Sunday, Kyle said that often God will invite us to come near in the midst of hard times. How have you experienced that in your life?

The worship of Baal had left the altar of Yahweh in shambles. How have the idols left a mess in their wake?

1 Kings 18:36-39

³⁶ At the time of sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward and prayed: "Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command.³⁷ Answer me, Lord, answer me, so these people will know that you, Lord, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again."³⁸ Then the fire of the Lord fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench.³⁹ When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried, "The Lord—he is God! The Lord—he is God!"

Has God used a "fire fall down" moment in your life?

What was your response?

MOVING FORWARD

Did you do the homework from last week?

Did you look at your bank account and calendar to see how you use your time? What did you find out?

What or who are you serving?

How can you begin to recalibrate your priorities around following Jesus?