



Stuff They Didn't Teach Me In Sunday School



Episode 077- Let's Get Ready To RUMBLE!

1 Kings 18

King Ahab was a bad king who married a far worse woman. He married Jezebel, daughter of the king of Phoenicia, and he established Baal worship in Yahweh's Northern Kingdom.

- What have you seen happen when a person surrounds himself with bad influences?
- How can we witness to unbelievers (especially neighbors, coworkers, etc.) without endangering our faith?

The rites of Baal worship were designed to remind Baal to send rain on the crops. When Jezebel established Baal worship in Israel, Yahweh commanded Elijah to announce a drought. The drought itself was the first round of the contest and proved that Yahweh's power to withhold rain was greater than Baal's power to send it.

- When have you seen God withhold something (money, health, possessions) to bring someone to repentance?
- What good has God brought out of the difficult times in your life?

God wins the contest. Through his mockery Elijah reveals how pitifully powerless and non-existent Baal is. And finally God sends a fire that instantly evaporates the water, consumes the bull and all the wood beneath it, as well as the stones Elijah used to make the altar and the dirt on which it stood. And then when it is finally clear to everyone that Baal can send neither fire nor rain, God sends a tremendous downpour of rain from a tiny cloud (see 1 Kings 18:41-46).

- What great battles have you seen God win in your life, or the life of someone you know?
- Do you think God has a sense of humor? Explain.

This battle on Mt. Carmel foreshadows another battle on Mt. Calvary. God faced off against Satan, and a sacrifice was nailed to a cross of wood. The fire of God's wrath fell upon His Son Jesus Christ, and through Jesus' perfect sacrifice, God led His people back to Himself. Jesus' resurrection on the third day was like the refreshing rain that fell on Israel after the battle on Mt. Carmel.

- God's enemies seemed so powerful both in Elijah's day and in Jesus' day. How powerful do they look to you today?
- How can you share the encouragement of God's victory with someone who is doubting and unsure?