



STUDY GUIDE – September 6, 2020

Message Title: ENOUGH
Which God Will You Serve
Teaching Pastor: Bryan Pope

Warm-up/Icebreaker:

What is your biggest time-waster pet peeve?

Pray:

Dear Lord, in You we live and move and have our being. Unfortunately, we often move about as if we, ourselves are the lord of our lives instead of You. Let us look at putting You as the center of our lives with a fresh, new perspective as we go deeper in Your Word today. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Get Started:

Elijah went before the people and said, "How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him."

But the people said nothing. 1 Kings 18:21

- Why don't the people say anything in response to Elijah?

"Instead there is a deafening silence, a collective holding of their breath, and I imagine some of the former faithful's heads starting to drop as they couldn't lock eyes with Elijah any longer. He was naming their choice not trying to take it away from them. He was imploring them not to wait... to take a stand. But the people said nothing. There are likely as many reasons there was no answer as there were people... But in any case Elijah's challenge is when will you stop limping and make a decision? and their answer is no answer, WHICH actually is an answer.

Not answering is an answer. Inaction is action. Failing to make a conscious decision meant they had decided whether they wanted to or not." Pastor Bryan Pope

- Why were the people indifferent as to which god they believed in?

Watch and Discuss video:

Pastor Bryan stated that there is so much more to this story and the details are where we can find some really amazing revelations. He said as he reads, he writes down the things he sees and understands, the obvious things from the text, and then he writes down the things that he has some more questions about (things that don't jump right off the page). That way, he can study and find out the significance of them and how God could be teaching through them.

- Is this a new concept or do you typically apply this kind of approach when reading the Bible?
- As you read the scripture in 1 Kings about Elijah's story is there anything that intrigues you?

As an example, Pastor Bryan spoke of Mt. Carmel being specifically named in this story, giving some possible reasons that might be significant. He found that in Hebrew the name of this mountain is Har Ha-karmel, which means Vineyard or orchard of God. It was an enduring symbol of fertility to people in ancient Israel.

- What do you think is the significance of the placement on Mt. Carmel?
- Is there any place that you go back to to re-energize your hope in God?

Reflect and Commit:

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Matthew 22:37 and Colossians 1:16 and Proverbs 3:5-6

- Which one of these verses impacts you the most in trying to remember to put Jesus in the center of your life?

“Today, our decision to follow God or not is a physical life or death question. But it is a matter of life or death spiritually. We may not face execution or physical harm but there are consequences. Consequences that pull us away from our relationship with God, that start to take away the space he deserves in our life and replace it with things that will come up empty time and time again. And spiritually we slowly die to the loss of our greatest possibilities, the possibilities of the fullest life possible, a life committed to God. So what would the world look like if every professed follower of Jesus decided to live like he was more important than anything else in our lives, not just say he is?” -Pastor Bryan Pope

- How can you be “Elijah” in someone else’s life by helping them to believe God?

Pray:

Dear Lord, thank you that you help us to live like You are more important to us than anything else in our life. We know that if we take the time to build our life on You first, Your power will come to us and set a fire in us, and we will never be the same. Let it change the lives of those around us in a radical way, that they would choose You as the God of their lives, too. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.