

Mount Carmel – The Mountain of Decision

Week of March 22, 2026

READ:

1 Kings 18:1-39

Matthew 6:24; Matthew 27:45-54

KEY POINTS:

- Divided hearts eventually require a decision – Israel tried to worship both God and Baal, but Elijah makes it clear that partial devotion is not possible. We cannot follow God while holding onto competing idols (1 Kings 18:21).
- False gods always overpromise and underdeliver – The prophets of Baal cried out all day with no answer, revealing the emptiness of idols. Modern idols like success, comfort, and control still fail to deliver what only God can provide (1 Kings 18:26-29).
- Real worship requires a restored altar – Before God sends fire, Elijah repairs the altar. True worship begins with repentance, surrender, and restoring our relationship with God (1 Kings 18:30-36).
- The fire on Carmel points to a greater sacrifice – The fire of judgment fell on the sacrifice at Carmel, but ultimately points to Jesus, who took that judgment on the cross so we could be reconciled to God.

QUESTIONS:

- What are some “modern Baals” (idols) that people commonly trust in today? Where in your life do you feel tension between following God and following something else?
- Elijah stood alone for God. When have you felt pressure to “fit in,” instead of stand firm?
- Have you ever experienced something in life that promised fulfillment but ultimately left you empty? What did you learn from it?
- Elijah repaired the altar before calling on God. What does “repairing the altar” look like in your daily life? What is one specific area where God is calling you to stop wavering and take a step of obedience this week?

LIFE APPLICATION:

- Identify Your “Baal” – Take time to honestly name anything competing with God for your devotion (approval, control, comfort, relationships, etc.).
- Repair the Altar – Rebuild rhythms of prayer, time in God’s Word, and honest repentance where things have broken down.
- Choose Obedience Over Approval – When faced with pressure to blend in, choose faithfulness to God even if it means standing alone.
- Take One Step Today – INDECISION = DISOBEDIENCE! Don’t stay stuck in indecision. Identify one practical step of obedience you can take this week.

PRAYER:

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for being the one true God who is worthy of our full devotion.

Forgive us for the ways our hearts have been divided and for the times we have wavered.

Show us anything in our lives that is competing with You. Give us courage to lay those things down and choose You fully. Help us to rebuild the places in our lives where worship has broken down.

Thank You for Jesus, the ultimate sacrifice, who took the judgment we deserved so we could draw near to You.

Teach us to follow You wholeheartedly, today and every day.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.