

"Let us dare to stand for God, though we stand alone!"
Elijah and Elisha- Daring Dudes in Dark Days

"Cultivating the courage of your _____so that you may stand firm in these dark days."

Do you know how important is it to _____what you believe and why you believe in Christ?

Remember,

- You have been called out of _____ – 1Pet. 2:9
- You have received of a new heart and mind- Ezk 36:26, 1 Cor 2:16
- You have been sealed with the Holy Spirit – Eph. 1:13
- You are identified by Christ as a _____connect to the vine- you're not alone- John 15:1
- You are justified, regenerated, adopted, and sanctified positional and are being sanctified progressively
- In this world you are not free from _____ - John 16:33
- In your life, you will be called to stand firm in Christ- Phil 4:1
- Your firm convictions believed in faith will help you stand under pressure from the culture that is so exceedingly trying to eradicate the church.- Phil 1:27

Misguided priorities lead to simplistic folly. The people of God need to be of sound mind and sound faith in the _____of God.

This morning we will look at two characters that we're called to stand on behalf of God:

1. Elijah – Whose name means- "My God is Jehovah."
2. Obadiah- Whose name means "Servant of the Lord."

Scripture: 1 Kings 18:1-17

Two lessons we learn from 1 Kings 18:1-17 that will help you cultivate the courage of your convictions so that you may stand firm in these dark days

1. **God is faithful to his _____** - Elijah teaches us that God's commands are still applicable
2. **God is faithful to his _____** - God established Obadiah's position. Truth over emotion birthed courage and action to stand firm in his position in the face of persecution

God is faithful to his promises- displayed.

In Deuteronomy 11:8-19, we read about the promise, consequence, and caution.

The promised land is a land the Lord your God cares for; the eyes of the Lord your God are continually on it from the beginning of the year to its end.

Promise:

So if you faithfully obey the commands I am giving you today—to love the Lord your God and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul— 14 then I will send rain on your land in its season, both autumn and spring rains, so that you may gather in your grain, new wine and olive oil. 15 I will provide grass in the fields for your cattle, and you will eat and be satisfied.

Consequence:

16 Be careful, or you will be enticed to turn away and worship other gods and bow down to them. 17 Then the Lord's anger will burn against you, and he will shut up the heavens so that it will not rain and the ground will yield no produce, and you will soon perish from the good land the Lord is giving you.

Caution:

18 Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. 19 Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

Faithful to his promises, we see four miracles of provision and care. Though the nation was being judged- God still took care of his own:

Miracles of provision and care:

1. Meat and bread provided by ravens
2. Bread and Oil through a widow
3. Resurrection of the widow's son
4. Convince the people that the Covenant keeping God is sovereign over everything.

Caution:

God is not above making your _____ difficult so that you will turn from your sin and wicked ways, repent and be healed by him.

God is not above making our _____ difficult to live in so that we will turn from our sin and wicked ways, repent and be healed by him.

Not only do we personally have to pray:

- Lord, search my heart as to reveal any wicked way in me

but we also must pray

- God, Have we allowed the culture to corrupt our convictions and have we compromised and bent the knee."

If you have sinned, there will be an opportunity for restoration, but there will be consequences if we continue in your sin.

God is faithful to his people- God established Obadiah's position. Truth over emotion birthed courage and action to stand firm in his position in the face of persecution.

God had a man on the inside: This is not an uncommon practice with our God. He always seems to have someone somewhere close to those who are making big decisions-

- _____ - cupbearer to the king
- Daniel-made ruler of the entire province of Babylon and was in charge of all the wise men
- _____ became second in command to Pharaoh
- Obadiah was the palace administrator, and he was a revered/devout believer in the Lord.

God established Obadiah position:

- God takes care of his people
- God will take care of you

Three steps that Obadiah shares to make sure his heart is in the right place:

1. **Obadiah is _____ with Elijah-** asking if he wronged him Vs 9
2. **Obadiah is _____ with Elijah-** sharing about the great lengths taken to search for Elijah by king Ahab- even about how the evil king made the people swear they could not find him Vs 10
3. **Obadiah _____ his concerns with Elijah-** are you going to show up? vs 12

All authority has been given to Him- we are to go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the father, son and the Holy Spirit, and we are to remember and remind each other that he is with us". He is faithful

God is faithful to his promises.

God is faithful to his people.

In these dark days, misguided priorities lead to simplistic folly. The people of God need to be of sound mind and sound faith in the might of God, remembering:

- God will keep his promises to you.
- God will protect his people.