

IF THE LORD IS GOD...

PART 1 *by* FATHER CHUCK OWENS

I KINGS 18:16-40
MATTHEW 19:16-22

"If the LORD is God . . . Part I" Thoughts to Ponder

1. The false gods of this world will always fail us – they can neither sustain us nor satisfy us.
 - a. Anything we put our trust in other than the Lord God Almighty is a false god . . . honestly: to what do look for your ultimate security (i.e. your portfolio, your good looks, your resume, your marriage)?
 - b. Many believe that happiness is a function of how much they have. Do you have any storage units? If so, why? If so, how would your life change if you gave all that stuff away?
 - c. Do you possess your possessions or do your possessions possess you?

Please read the text for this sermon: I Kings 18:16-40.

2. Elijah's repairing the altar on Mt. Carmel symbolizes the need we have to repair our relationships with God.
 - a. Describe your relationship with God and explain your evaluation?
 - b. The hardest person to see is yourself and the hardest thing to admit is that the face in your mirror is the face of a sinner . . . reconsider your response to 2a in light of this truth.

3. Elijah's offering a "worthy sacrifice" symbolizes our need to repent from following this world's false gods by giving the Lord first place in our lives.
 - a. Does how you serve the Lord with your time, talent and treasure show that He is truly the Lord of your life?
 - b. The rich young man Jesus encountered in Matthew 19:16-22 had it made in the world's eyes, yet he was miserable. Could that have been you at some point in your life? Explain. Is that still you? Explain.

4. When the lightning flashed and the sacrifice was consumed on Mt. Carmel, the people of Israel cried: "The LORD, he is God; the LORD, he is God!" In a sermon on this text, Peter Marshall declared from his pulpit: "If God be God, then serve Him. If Baal be god, then serve him and go to hell." Share your thoughts on Dr. Marshall's statement.

