

Elijah - Part 8

by Leonard Ravenhill

Leonard Ravenhill's sermon emphasizes the urgent need for personal sacrifice and revival in the church, drawing parallels to the life of Elijah.

Duration: 7:37

Scripture: 1 Kings 18:24, 2 Kings 2:11, 2 Chronicles 7:14, Matthew 16:24, Romans 12:1, Hebrews 12:29, Revelation 3:15-16

Topics: "Repentance", "Revival"

Description

This sermon emphasizes the need for deep introspection and repentance, highlighting the weight of missed opportunities, unkept vows, and the urgency of preparing for eternity. It challenges the idea of mere religious rituals and calls for a true surrender of oneself as a living sacrifice to God. The speaker urges for a revival in the church, pointing out the threats and challenges faced by those who stand for God's truth in a world filled with opposition and potential destruction.

Transcript

Lovely lady, I've seen her face somewhere. So she came up and said, good evening. I said, good evening.

And would you like to select something? I never eat before preaching. I eat afterwards pretty well. And I've seen you before, she said.

Yes. I should think you have. I said, what do you mean? I got off from work five nights in a row.

I sat under your nose down in the Baptist church there and I haven't slept a wink for the last five nights. I said, praise the Lord. What do you mean, praise the Lord? Are you praising the Lord I haven't slept for five nights? I said, yes.

Anybody else ever keep you awake for five nights? No. I said, well, that's one up for me anyhow. I can't sleep.

I think of the judgment seat. I think of eternity. I think of my missed opportunities.

I think of the vows I made I haven't kept. I think of the altars I once built. You see, we mistake building an altar.

It may cost you a lot of work. I think all those priests of Ahab were ridiculing and saying, ha, silly old guy. What does he think he's going to do? You see, we get the idea if you build an altar that God's going to send fire.

God never sent fire on an altar yet and he never will. He sends fire on the sacrifice, not on the altar. That's why I say you present your body a living sacrifice.

In the Old Testament they were dead sacrifices. You and I are living sacrifices, or should be. We've all our faculties.

He can cleanse us and endure us and fill us and send us out. Look, I'm going to say in my judgment this man Bonnke is a modern prophet. But you know, we need a prophet in every pulpit in the land today.

If Elijah got on CBS one Sunday morning, do you think he'd get on next Sunday morning? Do you think he'd get through the first Sunday morning? They'd switch him off. Halfway he'd have to give out his text and start breathing fire from heaven. Everybody switched the TV off thinking it was going to explode or something.

I've been praying that God would make this term here. And I won't do much teaching, I don't think. I'm praying he'll make it the most unusual term.

You don't call it a term here, what do you call it? A term? And my dear friend here is starting a Bible institute in Oylton. What a place. Might as well start one in the desert, I think, is Oylton.

Speaking naturally. I've often wondered why they call the three wise men. There's no proof there were three any kind.

There were three kinds of gifts, there may have been 33. But the wise men, what did they follow? What? A star, science. Where did they land up? Was Jesus there? No, he wasn't in Jerusalem.

Where was he? He's in a village seven miles outside of the city of King... Oh, they were sure he would be born in the city of David the King, as they thought. And he's born in a little place called Oylton, if you like. Seven miles away from the main city.

You know, science is still getting lost, reading stars and what have you got. I was praying the other morning about three o'clock for Oylton. As they start this school, if it's going to be like any others, you shouldn't get headaches over it.

Pack it up and close it. Nail it up when you go home. I'll help you, I'm going up to Oylton tomorrow.

I'll help you to nail it up. If this is going to be another class like last class or last year, why have it? I mean, come on, face it. There has to be a breakthrough somewhere.

I used to have a sign, I used to take it and hang it. Churches didn't like it. If not here, where? If not now, when? If not us, who? What's that for? Revival.

Hang it on the pulpit. If not here, where? If not now, when? If not us, who? What's the good of praying that the fire will fall on ORU? Don't mention my name when you've caught that. Well, we've got some ORU students here tonight.

Yes, good. How many? One, two, three. Five young people who have driven five hours to this prayer meeting.

Isn't that something? And they drive five hours to go back. Bill, stand up a minute. You're not so big, but let them see you.

This is the pastor from Oylton, so there are the young folk from ORU. And maybe they'll come along and see you there. But look, let me wind it up.

I'm deeply, deeply, deeply disturbed about the condition of the church. What you need to read into this story of Elijah when you read it, he was threatened the whole time he started speaking to the end, he was threatened by death. When Jezebel wasn't after him, Ahab was after him.

When Ahab wasn't after him, the false prophets were after him. When they weren't after him, 50 thieves at once come after him. Then another 50, then another 50.

Anybody who hadn't heard the voice of God could never put up to that. Come on, you youngsters, what are you going to walk into? The greatest hell this world has ever known. America could be on fire from one coast to another with a blazing, I was going to say incurable, but indestructible atomic war.

There's no answer to it. I don't want the folk in the world to panic, stricken about it, they have no hope. I think they're more realistic than many Christians.

Look, either we're going to have an atomic fire or we're going to have a holy ghost fire. Settle for one or the other. Either we're going to have a holy ghost fire or this generation is going to hell fire.

Now, where are the men who are going to bring the fire down from heaven? They don't sit in committee meetings. I don't read that Elijah said, Well, I've got a promising young student by the name of Elisha, I'm going to have a day off and talk with him. It didn't go to what elders there were in Israel either.

Elisha again didn't say, Oh, God of Abraham, God of Moses who split the waters and divided the Red Sea. Oh, that's dusty history. He said, I've been living with a man, Elisha, and when that man stood, kings trembled.

When that man spoke, the dead were raised. He's going to have to come back to this. And I'm going to tell you, if I come Friday after Friday, which I hope I'll have strength to do, we're going to get deeper in the things of God this winter than ever.

And it may cost you some tears, it cost me.

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