

HOW TO BE BOLD FOR GOD

Elijah • July 11, 2010 • Mike Newman, Senior Pastor



May 30, 2010	Esther – “Make The Most of Life’s Circumstances”
June 6, 2010.....	Jonah – “Second Chances”
June 13, 2010	Ruth – “Keys to a Great Friendship”
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July 11, 2010	Elijah – “How To Be Bold for God”

1 Kings 17:1 (NLT) ¹ Now Elijah, who was from Tishbe in Gilead, told King Ahab, “As surely as the LORD, the God of Israel, lives—the God I serve—there will be no dew or rain during the next few years until I give the word!”

1 Kings 18:1–2 (NLT) ¹ Later on, in the third year of the drought, the LORD said to Elijah, “Go and present yourself to King Ahab. Tell him that I will soon send rain!”² So Elijah went to appear before Ahab. Meanwhile, the famine had become very severe in Samaria.

1 Kings 18:16–46 (NLT) ¹⁶ So Obadiah went to tell Ahab that Elijah had come, and Ahab went out to meet Elijah.¹⁷ When Ahab saw him, he exclaimed, “So, is it really you, you troublemaker of Israel?” ¹⁸ “I have made no trouble for Israel,” Elijah replied. “You and your family are the troublemakers, for you have refused to obey the commands of the LORD and have worshiped the images of Baal instead.”¹⁹ Now summon all Israel to join me at Mount Carmel, along with the 450 prophets of Baal and the 400 prophets of Asherah who are supported by Jezebel.” ²⁰ So Ahab summoned all the people of Israel and the prophets to Mount Carmel.²¹ Then Elijah stood in front of them and said, “How much longer will you waver, hobbling between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him! But if Baal is God, then follow him!” But the people were completely silent. ²² Then Elijah said to them, “I am the only prophet of the LORD who is left, but Baal has 450 prophets.²³ Now bring two bulls. The prophets of Baal may choose whichever one they wish and cut it into pieces and lay it on the wood of their altar, but without setting fire to it. I will prepare the other bull and lay it on the wood on the altar, but not set fire to it.²⁴ Then call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the LORD. The god who answers by setting fire to the wood is the true God!” And all the people agreed. ²⁵ Then Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, “You go first, for there are many of you. Choose one of the bulls, and prepare it and call on the name of your god. But do not set fire to the wood.” ²⁶ So they prepared one of the bulls and placed it on the altar. Then they called on the name of Baal from morning until noontime, shouting, “O Baal, answer us!” But there was no reply of any kind. Then they danced, hobbling around the altar they had made. ²⁷ About noontime Elijah began mocking them. “You’ll have to shout louder,” he scoffed, “for surely he is a god! Perhaps he is daydreaming, or is relieving himself. Or maybe he is away on a trip, or is asleep and needs to be wakened!” ²⁸ So they shouted louder, and following their normal custom, they cut themselves with knives and swords until the blood gushed out.²⁹ They raved all afternoon until the time of the evening sacrifice, but still there was no sound, no reply, no response. ³⁰ Then Elijah called to the people, “Come over here!” They all crowded around him as he repaired the altar of the LORD that had been torn down.³¹ He took twelve stones, one to represent each of the tribes of Israel,³² and he used the stones to rebuild the altar in the name of the LORD. Then he dug a trench around the altar large enough to hold about three gallons.³³ He piled wood on the altar, cut the bull into pieces, and laid the pieces on the wood. Then he said, “Fill four large jars with water, and pour the water over the offering and the wood.” ³⁴ After they had done this, he said, “Do the same thing again!” And when they were finished, he said, “Now do it a third time!” So they did as he said,³⁵ and the water ran around the altar and even filled the trench. ³⁶ At the usual time for offering the evening sacrifice, Elijah the prophet walked up to the altar and prayed, “O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, prove today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant. Prove that I have done all this at your command.³⁷ O LORD, answer me! Answer me so these people will know that you, O LORD, are God and that you have brought them back to yourself.” ³⁸ Immediately the fire of the LORD flashed down from heaven and burned up the young bull, the wood, the stones, and the dust. It even licked up all the water in the trench!³⁹ And when all the people saw it, they fell face down on the ground and cried out, “The LORD—he is God! Yes, the LORD is God!” ⁴⁰ Then Elijah commanded, “Seize all the prophets of Baal. Don’t let a single one escape!” So the people seized them all, and Elijah took them down to the Kishon Valley and killed them there. ⁴¹ Then Elijah said to Ahab, “Go get something to eat and drink, for I hear a mighty rainstorm coming!” ⁴² So Ahab went to eat and drink. But Elijah climbed to the top of Mount Carmel and bowed low to the ground and prayed with his face between his knees. ⁴³ Then he said to his servant, “Go and look out toward the sea.” The servant went and looked, then returned to Elijah and said, “I didn’t see anything.” Seven times Elijah told him to go and look.⁴⁴ Finally the seventh time, his servant told him, “I saw a little cloud about the size of a man’s hand rising from the sea.” Then Elijah shouted, “Hurry to Ahab and tell him, ‘Climb into your chariot and go back home. If you don’t hurry, the rain will stop you!’” ⁴⁵ And soon the sky was black with clouds. A heavy wind brought a terrific rainstorm, and Ahab left quickly for Jezreel.⁴⁶ Then the LORD gave special strength to Elijah. He tucked his cloak into his belt and ran ahead of Ahab’s chariot all the way to the entrance of Jezreel.

1 Kings 19:1–4 (NLT) ¹ When Ahab got home, he told Jezebel everything Elijah had done, including the way he had killed all the prophets of Baal.² So Jezebel sent this message to Elijah: “May the gods strike me and even kill me if by this time tomorrow I have not killed you just as you killed them.” ³ Elijah was afraid and fled for his life. He went to Beersheba, a town in Judah, and he left his servant there.⁴ Then he went on alone into the wilderness, traveling all day. He sat down under a solitary broom tree and prayed that he might die. “I have had enough, LORD,” he said. “Take my life, for I am no better than my ancestors who have already died.”

For more information about what it means to become a follower of Christ or what to do after you make a decision to follow Jesus, speak to one of the pastors or elders following the service today (they can be found by the prayer room in the church lobby) or contact the church office at 717-762-7147 to set up an appointment. You may also request materials and find additional information to help you on your spiritual journey on our website:

www.otterbeinchurch.org

Four Lessons:

- 1) God wants us to be _____
for truth and for Him.

*Elijah was willing to say what needed said
and do what needed done.*



John 16:33 (NLT) ³³ I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.³³

James 1:2 (NLT) ² Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy.

1 Peter 4:12-16 (NLT) ¹² Dear friends, don't be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you.¹³ Instead, be very glad—for these trials make you partners with Christ in his suffering, so that you will have the wonderful joy of seeing his glory when it is revealed to all the world.¹⁴ So be happy when you are insulted for being a Christian, for then the glorious Spirit of God rests upon you.¹⁵ If you suffer, however, it must not be for murder, stealing, making trouble, or prying into other people's affairs.¹⁶ But it is no shame to suffer for being a Christian. Praise God for the privilege of being called by his name!

1 Peter 4:19 (NLT) ¹⁹ So if you are suffering in a manner that pleases God, keep on doing what is right, and trust your lives to the God who created you, for he will never fail you.

Matthew 5:10-12 (NLT) ¹⁰ God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs. ¹¹ "God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers.¹² Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way.

1 Peter 3:13-14 (NLT) ¹³ Now, who will want to harm you if you are eager to do good?¹⁴ But even if you suffer for doing what is right, God will reward you for it. So don't worry or be afraid of their threats.

Galatians 6:9 (NLT) ⁹ So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up.

What do you need to do in response to today's message?

Four ways we can be bold for God:

- a) God wants us to _____ about Jesus Christ.
 - b) God wants us to stand up for His _____.
 - c) God wants us to give _____ even when it is not what the other person wants to hear.
 - d) God wants us to do what the _____ even when everyone thinks another way is better.
- 2) We should anticipate that being bold for God will not be easy and will _____.**
- See John 16:33, James 1:2, and 1 Peter 4:12-16, 19

Three things that sometimes happens when we are bold for God:

- a) We are _____ by others.
 - b) We become _____ drained.
 - c) We may not see the _____ we wanted to see.
- 3) God ultimately _____ those who are bold for Him and do the right things.**
- See Matthew 5:10-12, 1 Peter 3:13-14, and Galatians 6:9
- 4) Our _____ is directly related to our boldness for God.

The bigger your view of God, the more bold you will be for God and the more you will trust God with every part of your life.