

Small Groups @ TBC Sermon Discussion Notes

Date of Sermon: 21 June 2015

Speaker: David Lawrence

Title: Faith Fight!

Introduction: This is the fourth talk in our Elijah series. After years of preparation and patient waiting Elijah emerges to engage with the heart of the problem in God's people - idolatry.

Review: (invite one or more who have heard the talk to give their own brief review)

Reflect:

Read: 1 Kings 18:16-40

Reflect:

1. Israel has merged worship with Baal and Asherah, with worship of Yahweh.
 - Why would they do that?
 - Is there a Christian equivalent of this 'blending' of 'gods'? What might it look like?
2. Idols are any thing or any belief to which we look to provide our ultimate source of well-being, contentment, and hope.
 - On that basis, what might be some of the 'idols of our time'?
 - For each one you identify, what do they appear to offer and what do they demand of their 'worshippers'?
3. Elijah showed great confidence in God to stand alone before all Israel and the 850 prophets of Baal & Asherah.
 - What enabled him to stand there?
 - Have you ever felt that you were standing alone in a situation for God. What did it cost you and what gave you strength to do so?
4. What do you think are the main idols served by our culture? To use David's categories in the talk, in what way do our society's idols:
 - Lie to you?
 - Harm you?
 - Exhaust you?
5. Elijah was ruthless in his judgment of the prophets of Baal. David told the story of St Boniface who cut down the sacred oak idols in 8th century Germany. What practical steps might we take to cut down some of the 'idols' of our time (use your answer to question 2)?

Respond:

Love for God

How do we develop our love for God such that the idols of our time lose their appeal?

Leaders: feel free to be selective and creative with your use of these notes. Don't feel you have to use all of the material, but do try to keep the shape of Review – Read – Reflect - Respond

Thornbury Baptist: Loving God - Loving One Another - Loving Neighbour & World

Love for one another

How does the strength of Christian community assist us in the fight against idols?

Love for neighbour & world

Do we know any of our friends or neighbours who are enslaved by contemporary idols? How could we reach out to them?

And finally:

Before you conclude, ask each person:

- What is the main thing you are taking away as an action point?
- How can we pray for you?
- Is there anything we can check on next time we meet?

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