

Elijah: Courage in a Corrupt Culture

Message I – The Politician, The Princess, & the Prophet

Summary

In Elijah's day, Israel's culture was corrupted from the top down. Ahab (the politician) was passive and evil, normalizing compromise to keep power. Jezebel (the princess) aggressively imported idolatry, sexual immorality, and intimidation—seeking total control. Into that moment, Elijah (the prophet) stepped forward from obscurity with courage and clarity to call a nation back to Yahweh. Their story mirrors our moment: secularization, moral confusion, and pressure to be silent yet God still raises “Elijahs” who stand before Him and speak truth in love.

Key Scriptures

- **1 Kings 16:29–33** – Ahab's evil reign; Jezebel's influence; Baal worship.
- **1 Kings 17:1** – Elijah's first confrontation: “As the Lord lives... there will be no rain.”
- **Revelation 2:20** – Tolerating “Jezebel.”
- **Malachi 4:5; Luke 1:17** – “Spirit and power of Elijah” across generations.

Questions

1. **What core leadership failure marked Ahab's reign, and how did it shape the nation?**
Ahab's passivity and willingness to compromise truth for power normalized evil and opened the door for national idolatry under Jezebel's control.
2. **How does Jezebel's influence show up in three arenas (then and now)?**
Immorality (sexual deviance as “worship”/virtue), *idolatry* (false gods/ideologies replacing God), and *intimidation* (silencing God's people and destroying altars of truth).
3. **Why does Elijah's origin (Tishbe, obscurity, “hairy man with a leather belt”) matter?**
It underscores that God raises ordinary, unseen people to do extraordinary things when they stand before Him—calling and courage, not pedigree, qualify a prophet.
4. **What's the difference between *tolerance* as culture defines it and *love* as Scripture defines it?**

Cultural tolerance often refrains from moral judgments even when harm occurs; biblical love tells the truth for another's good, calls to repentance, and seeks restoration.

5. How does the NT confirm that “Jezebel” and “Elijah” represent more than individuals?

Rev. 2:20 warns about tolerating “Jezebel,” and Luke 1:17 says John came in the spirit and power of Elijah same patterns show up across generations.

6. If that's the case, where do you see an “Ahab spirit” and a “Jezebel spirit” at work in modern life?

Ahab: passive leadership in homes/church/culture that avoids hard truth.

Jezebel: manipulative control, sexual confusion, de-Christianizing worship/values, and coercive silencing of dissent.

7. Where are you tempted to be passive like Ahab, and what one act of obedience would reverse that passivity this week?

(Examples: initiate a hard conversation, set a boundary, lead family prayer, address a hidden compromise.)

Family / Group Activity

“Altars & Idols” Table Talk

- Give each person two sticky notes. On one, write an “idol” that competes with God (approval, comfort, screen time, success). On the other, write an “altar” habit (prayer, Scripture, serving, Sabbath).
- Post them on two columns: **Idols to Tear Down / Altars to Rebuild.**
- Read 1 Kings 17:1 together. Pray that your home will “stand before the Lord” and choose one altar habit to practice this week.

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