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Gotta Serve Somebody

Lesson 9 • 1Kings 18:1-16

The LORD Provides LIFE for His LOYAL REMNANT in the Midst of DEATH!				18:1ff Elijah Before King Ahab
17:1 Elijah Before King Ahab "It ain't gonna rain no more, no more... until I say so!" "these years"	17:2-7 Providential Provision for PROTECTION At the Brook Cherith Fed by Unclean Ravens God's Unlikely Provision	17:8-16 Providential Provision for PROCLAMATION In the City Zarephath Fed by an Unclean Widow God's Unlikely Provider	17:17-24 Providential Provision for TRUE PROSPERITY In the Prophet's Upper Room Raised the Dead to Life God's Unlikely Prosperity	"It's gonna rain... the LORD says so!" "in the third year"
→ → → Elijah Is Prepared for the Big Smackdown! → → →				

- The Lord Has Providentially **PREPARED** His Loyal Prophet for the Big Smackdown on Mt. Carmel! *1Kings 18:1-2*
- This is a War of **WORLDVIEWS**: *Who Will You Worship: Baal or Yahweh? 1Kings 18:21*

A Choice Must Be Made, Cause Everybody's Gotta Serve **SOMEBODY!**

"Now it came about after many days...in the third year that..." (18:1)

Everybody's Gotta Serve Somebody *including* **OBADIAH!**

Ahab called Obadiah who was over the household. (Now Obadiah feared the LORD greatly; for when Jezebel destroyed the prophets of the LORD, Obadiah took a hundred prophets and hid them by fifties in a cave, and provided them with bread and water.) (18:3-4)

His Name "**SERVANT** of Yahweh"

His Role **STEWARD** of Ahab the Apostate (3-5)

- Tough job during a **PHYSICAL** famine.
- Even tougher job during a **SPIRITUAL** famine
- Especially if you are part of the **LOYAL** remnant of Yahweh!

His Tension **SERVING** Two Masters in the Worst of Times (3, 6-9)

- Obadiah is **TORN** between two masters. (7-8)
- Obadiah's **FEARFULNESS** versus Elijah's faithfulness. (9)

Is Obadiah a Disloyal Compromiser or a Loyal Follower of Yahweh?

Eventually every believer must choose to follow the LORD at any cost...especially in the worst of times!

Settling the Question of Who You're Gonna Serve

1. Obadiah Serves His Master, Ahab the King. (18:2-6)

- Obadiah's **POSITION** in the Palace (3)

- Obadiah's **PASSION** for the LORD (3-4)

The Proof: He **protected** the LORD's prophets and **provided** for them just like Yahweh did for Elijah!

- Obadiah's **PURSUIT** with Ahab for water and grass (5-6)

2. Obadiah Serves His Master, Elijah the Prophet. (18:7-14)

- Elijah's **BOLD COMMISSION** for Obadiah to Do Kingdom Work. (7-8)

The Servant of Yahweh is to go before the Apostate King and say: "**BEHOLD! YAHWEH IS MY GOD!**"

In Times of Apostasy the LORD Calls His Servants to Be...

1. **OBEDIENT witnesses** that boldly say our God **is** Yahweh.
2. **FAITHFUL witnesses** that graciously carry God's Word of judgment **and** salvation to those who need to hear it.

- Obadiah's **FEARFUL EXCUSE** for Not Doing Kingdom Work. (9-14)

1. His **fear** is **DEATH** at the hands of Ahab. (9, 12, 14)
2. His **excuse** reveals a lack of **TRUST**. (9-14))

Excuses for Not Being Sold Out in Serving the LORD Are Often Based on...

Misconceptions about obeying God's commands.

Misdirecting our focus. **Mishandling** our thinking. **Misplacing** our confidence.

3. Obadiah Settles the Question of Being **SOLD OUT** in Serving the LORD. (18:15-16)

- Elijah **SWEARS** by the LORD Almighty whom he serves to be present as he promised.

Elijah said, "As the LORD of hosts lives, before whom I stand, I will surely show myself to him today." (15)

Elijah Overcomes Obadiah's Fears by Feeding His Faith

- 1) He swears by God Almighty's **MAJESTY**. "As the LORD of hosts lives"
- 2) He serves under God's authority with great **LOYALTY**. "before whom I stand"
- 3) He speaks with radical **HONESTY & INTEGRITY**. "I will surely show myself to him today."

- Obadiah **OBEYS** by faith because God Almighty promises to never fail him or forsake him.

So Obadiah went to meet Ahab and told him; and Ahab went to meet Elijah. (16)

Everybody's Gotta Serve Somebody!

What Is Your Excuse for Not Being Sold Out in Serving the LORD?

- ☐ **Fear vs. Faith?**
Replace fear with faith in the LORD who promises that His power and presence will never leave you or forsake you. *Matthew 28:18-20; Heb 13:5-6; Deut 31:6, 8; Ps 118:5-9*
- ☐ **Death vs. Life?**
Repent of putting self-protection before serving the LORD. *Mark 8:34*
- ☐ **I've Done Enough vs. I Can Never Do Enough to Say Thank You?**
Resolve to die to self and live for the LORD who died...and lives for us! *2Corinthians 5:11-15*