

Because Every Life Matters

1 Kings 18: 1-17

Rev. John Anderson

Bay Presbyterian Church

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Introduction: ***Normally we associate idols with statues or totem poles or the like.**
***Pedro Cerrano had Jobu**
***“An idol (counterfeit god) is anything so central to your life that, should you lose it, your life would feel hardly worth living. An idol has such controlling position in your heart that you can spend most of your passion, energy, your emotional and financial resources, on it without a second thought.” --Tim Keller**
*** There are a cascade of consequences attached to the commitment of our heart and resources to such idols.**
***These consequences are all – directly or indirectly related to the fact that it is a disruption in Jehovah’s order.**

I. Marginalizing God’s Workers

- **Chapter 18 opens after three years of drought.**
- **Elijah goes to meet Ahab.**
- **Obadiah – common name, uncommon person.**
- **Obadiah threaded the needle and served Ahab and Jehovah.**
- **Priests and Levites had already fled Israel for the relative safety of Jerusalem.**
- **Obadiah, like an early Oscar Schindler, saved 100 people from death.**
- **Then Obadiah helped save the horses.**

II. A Moment of Hesitation

- **Obadiah bumps into Elijah.**
- **Elijah asks for an introduction to the King.**
- **Obadiah hesitates.**
 - **What if Elijah doesn’t show up?**
 - **Who knows where the Spirit of the Lord will take him.**

III. Take Away

- **God’s servants come in all stripes.**
 - **Elijah – thrived on confrontation**
 - **Marvelous power game – short on finesse**
 - **Obadiah – greater tolerance for moral ambiguity**
 - **Strong on finesse – lived below the radar**
 - **God uses all sorts of people to accomplish His purposes.**
 - **God’s ministry is about Him, not us.**
- **The value of life**
 - **Humans die while horses and mules live.**
 - **In our increasingly secularized culture, the same thing is currently true. In some cases, animals are afforded more rights than in utero human beings.**
- **Elijah announces that water is on the way.**