

Choose Your God

Today the Lord is looking into the hearts of His people because He wants you to know what He sees in your life. God is getting ready to make a distinction in the world. God brought to remembrance a prophesy that He put before me, a dream that I had three years ago and God brought it forth again about three to four months ago. God is getting ready to make a distinction in His church: who is His and who is not His you shall know. He said the people in the pews are going to rise up over the people in the pulpit. Their eyes shall be open and they shall see and the people behind the pulpit shall be blinded. It's because of what they do in their private life. It's because of their idolatry they forgot about the God that we serve. They forgot about all that God has put forth, the hard beginnings just to get behind this pulpit. All of those things and they have set forth and they have forgotten. Now they look at the things of being popular, of the money, of the number, of the prestige, and they put God on the side and they worship God, but only an image of God. They forgot God Himself, the very one who gives us life, breath, and they fear the one who can condemn them face to face and kill their body. But they don't fear the one who can kill their body and throw their soul away. So the Lord says to look at this.

Tonight we're going to talk about one who has forgotten. They have turned away from God and yet the prophet has to come and remind them and tell them choose your God. Who is your God? I rather you be hot or cold, but never lukewarm. We're going to talk about the church of Laodicea. The one in revelation God says, "I wish you were hot or cold, not lukewarm." We're going to talk about Elijah with the prophets of Baal. How he told the people of Israel, "If you follow God, follow God. If you follow Baal, then follow Baal. Make up your mind, but make a choice."

We stand here today all of us seeking God and we desire Him in our hearts and in our spirits and we're starting to move in the manners and we do the things of the world to make it look like that we really want God. But do we really want God? Because if you do, that means just like the rich man in Luke 18, he was willing to give up everything to serve God. When the Lord told him, "Now get rid of all that you have and give it to the poor and pick up your cross and follow Me." He wasn't willing to do that. That is the one thing he could not do.

Isaiah talked about it and Isaiah talked to the people. He said in 44-45 and he told the people God was saying you folks take a piece of lumber and you cut it, and the wood itself you throw into the fire. The wood warms me and cooks my food and then the other half of the wood you create an idol. You worship an idol that cannot speak and cannot turn to you and cannot heal you. And yet you forget about that same block of wood warming your body and feeding your stomach. The Lord says, "You see, you forget about these things."

We're going to first go to Elijah. We're going to talk about what happened on Mount Carmel. That's in ***1 Kings 18:20-39***. Our Lord is trying to purify you. The Lord is trying to let us look into our lives and evaluate the things that we have in our life. What are we hanging on so tightly to? Who are we following, is what the Lord is saying. He wants us to evaluate all that we do and all that we say daily. You have to understand I am not exempt just because I stand behind the pulpit, just because I prophesy, just because I preach. I am not exempt to the rule. Daily I must evaluate myself and choose my God. Daily I must look around me and I choose God over money, I choose God over my children, I choose God over my own home, my own sanity. I choose God. I have to do this daily, I am not exempt. If I am not exempt, you are not exempt. If I have to face this battle daily, I know you have to too. This is what you're here for. God is saying, "Choose your God!" Make up your mind. If you're going to follow, follow God. If you're going to follow the Baals, the Baals represents anything else other than God, if you're going to follow that then follow that, but make up your mind.

v.20 So Ahab sent for all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together on Mount Carmel.

v.21 And Elijah came to all the people, and said, "How long will you falter between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him." But the people answered him not a word.

Why? Because they could not speak. They forgot about God because Jezebel and Ahab had ruined their thoughts and their thinking. They were crucifying all the prophets of God and fear set into them and they had no way of coming back because the moment that they followed God, they too would be considered dead. The walking dead. So God didn't want His people to hurt, God didn't want that, so He allowed them to live the life that they lived, but with drought and in famine. The Lord said this shall be

done. He came forth and said, "If God is your God, if our Lord is your God then follow Him. But if Ahab, Baal, follow him." God is telling all of us today look into your own lives. If our Lord is the Lord of your life then follow Him, but if there be anything before Him then it is a Baal and you follow it. God said it cannot be so. Do you love your children more than you love Me? Do you love house and home more than you love Me? Do you love the beauty that is set around you that things that have been created by the hands of man do you love that more than you love Me?

Some people I speak to they talk real spiritual. They go deep about the Lord but they fall short because they stop and limit God and they say I'm in awe of all that God has created. How He hangs the clouds, and the stars, and the moons. I agree, but what about beyond that? God is not limited to the universe. What about when you look up at the clouds and you look up to the stars and you look up at the moon and you see. Don't you realize God is looking back? It is not the skies, the stars, the moon that we should be in awe of. We should be in awe of the palm of the hand we sit in. God is looking right at us. You are in awe of the universe. I am in awe that the universe fits in His hand. I cannot comprehend how He does that. Yet I am smaller than dust and I fit in His hand. What can contain God? I look in my imagination and I wonder and I think and I try to visualize what can contain God if He holds the universe in the palm of His hand? Nothing can contain Him. And yet we limit God to objects and we limit God to people and we limit God to other things. God says I am greater than that and if you consider that great, choose your God. That's what God is doing now. He's asking all of you to look forth and look within and choose your God.

Elijah was going to make a point. He was going to prove that his God was the true God.

v.22 Then Elijah said to the people, "I alone am left a prophet of the LORD but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men.

v.23 Therefore let them give us two bulls; and let them choose one bull for themselves, cut it in pieces, and lay it on the wood, but put no fire under it; and I will prepare the other bull, and lay it on the wood, but put no fire under it.

v.24 Then you call on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD; and the God who answers by fire, He is God." So all the people answered and said, "It is well spoken."

v.25 Now Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "Choose one bull for yourselves and prepare it first, for you are many; and call on the name of your god, but put no fire under it."

v.26 So they took the bull which was given them, and they prepared it, and called on the name of Baal from morning even till noon, saying, "O Baal, hear us!" But there was no voice; no one answered. Then they leaped about the altar, which they had made.

v.27 And so it was, at noon, that Elijah mocked them and said, "Cry aloud, for he is a god; either he is meditating, or he is busy, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is sleeping and must be awakened."

I started to laugh at this because that's what people do. They fall on their knees before their altar, and they fall on their knees before their statues, and they fall on their knees before pictures, and they fall on their knees and cry and they look and they cry out to God and say you are the Lord. But the Lord is not contained in a statue, the Lord is not contained in a picture, the Lord is not contained. The Lord is contained in you. You need not be before an altar, you need not be in the sanctuary, you need not be in a place that you think God is at. God will meet you right where you're at. This is what He was doing. He was going to show them that God will meet them right where they're at. He didn't have to do a dance, he didn't have to beat on anything, he didn't have to do nothing. Our God is greater than that and He was going to prove it.

v.28 So they cried aloud, and cut themselves, as was their custom, with knives and lances, until the blood gushed out on them.

v.29 And when midday was past, they prophesied until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice...("Now this is from morning until the middle of the afternoon. They're doing this and nothing is happening. Guess what else is happening?") But there was no voice; no one answered, no one paid attention.

That means even the people got bored. Nothing was happening. God is not going to allow us to follow if you are truly called by God and you truly love Him and truly believe in what He's doing in your life. God is not going to allow anyone or anything to pull you away from Him. No matter how good they dance, no matter how well they preach, no matter how well they may prophesy, if they cut themselves, if they do all these things to impress upon you that there's a true God. God isn't going to do anything. Eventually you'll get bored. Eventually you will walk away. Eventually God will prove His point as He's about to do.

v.30 Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come near to me." So all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD that was broken down.

v.31 And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD had come saying, "Israel shall be your name."

v.32 Then with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD; and he made a trench around the altar large enough to hold two seahs of seed.

v.33 And he put the wood in order, cut the bull in pieces and laid it on the wood, and said, "Fill four water pots with water, and pour it on the burnt sacrifice and on the wood."

v.34 Then he said, "Do it a second time," and they did it a second time; and he said, "Do it a third time," and they did it a third time.

v.35 So the water ran all around the altar; and he also filled the trench with water.

That's really wet. You know what a seah is? It's about a fifty-pound bag of chicken feed. It's a big bag, couple rice bags size. Now four of those sizes are dumped on three times. That's pretty wet. Elijah walks in the confidence of God. You can make it as wet as you like, you can dance all you like, you can cut all you like, but if you believe in the one true God, God will come through. It doesn't matter to God. Nothing can contain God. Nothing can stop Him from doing what He's going to do. He had a point to prove that He was the one true God of Israel. But the people were turning away and turning to Baal. Why? They were impressed by the rituals, impressed by those things, and there was fear upon them to turn away, so God is putting the fear upon them. "Turn back to Me, I am the true God." How can you fear idols, how can you fear man, how can you fear that? You should fear the one who can kill your body and cast your soul into the lake of fire. Kills body and soul. That you should fear. And so it was and he put the wood in order, cut the bull in pieces, and laid it on the wood. He said fill the water pots and they did so and a third time. So the water ran all around the altar and he also filled the trenches with water. Not only that, they even got water and put it in the trench on purpose. They filled that up too.

v.36 And it came to pass, at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near and said, "LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that You are God in Israel and I am Your servant, and that I have done all these things at Your word.

v.37 Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that You are the LORD God, and that You have turned their hearts back to You again."

v.38 Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench.

v.39 Now when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, "The LORD, He is God! The LORD, He is God!"

But God had to put fear into them for them to get to that place. Is that what's going to take for you? Is God going to have to literally bring down fire upon your life and put you through hell on earth in order to get you to see who He really is? I hope not because we've been taught from young, some of us, not me, only from when I was old, who God is. You see I didn't have the opportunity. I didn't have a God fearing mother or father. I didn't have a praying family. I didn't have a loving family. I didn't have someone to impress the power of God upon me. So I literally lived hell on earth until the day He saved me. And the day He saved me and I walked into that church was the day that fire rained down from heaven and consumed my sacrifice and pulled everything away from me and I yelled, "He is my God, He is the true God." I gave my life to Him from that day forward.

Now where are you in your walk? What do we have left in our life that we haven't sacrificed and given up for God? Who do we put before Him? Today He tells you choose your God. Nothing can be before you. "Nothing can be before Me," he says. Nothing.

In **Isaiah 44:9-11** God talks about the blacksmith and the metalsmith. This is what I was talking about earlier.

v.9 Those who make an image, all of them are useless, and their precious things shall not profit; They are their own witnesses; they neither see nor know, that they may be ashamed.

v.10 Who would form a god or mold an image that profits him nothing?

v.11 Surely all his companions would be ashamed; and the workmen, they are mere men.

From the hands of man, in other words these things that you have in your house, someone had to mold them. Someone had to create them. These churches with all their special statues and images, someone had to make them, someone had to mold them. Yet we look upon these things as holy. How can they be holy when the hands themselves that created them were not holy? They're sinners just like you and me. Yet we turn to those things.

I had a dream four years ago and I see it starting to happen now. I didn't know what it was, it was a vision, I don't know if I was sleeping or I was awake, but one thing I can say is it was real. So real it took my breath away. It put the fear of God inside of me and it made me fear for my brothers and sisters. I stood there and listened to what's being said. I sat there on my bed and I was reading that night. I always read before I go to bed. I remember reading that night and as I read like this, I saw a glow of light in front of me and I looked up and standing before me at the foot of my bed was the image of the Virgin Mary. She stood there and she was crying. I looked upon that and my heart went out and all I kept saying is, "Why are you crying?" She just kept crying and weeping and I kept saying, "Why are you crying?" At that moment in a blink of an eye she went from being in a human form to being a marble statue. The statue was crying. As I looked upon that I was taken by the Spirit and I fell back on my bed and when I hit my bed it was like I hit the bed and I bounced right up and I was like, "Was that real?" I couldn't believe what I saw and it ate at me for months. I sought the Lord and said, "What is it? Why? If this is demonic take it out of me, I don't want it. I don't want to see it, I don't want to hear it, I don't want the devil to even have a hold." The Lord says, "No, they idolize her more than they love Me. They made idols of her and they worship an idol and they worship marble and stone. Yet they forgot about Me." She was a woman, she was My mother, she put Me forth, but that was it. She was a vessel. We are the vessels.

There is nothing holy about me, except the God inside of me. I am just a vessel like all of you who sit here today. But daily God tells me, "Choose your God." Child and adult choose your God. Look at your life and allow God to run it. Allow God to guide you. Allow God to do what He needs to do in you and through you because only then will you know Him. Only then will you truly know His voice and see His face. He says for My sheep know My voice. You cannot hear His voice through images and idols. You cannot hear His voice through another man. Though God may allow me to stand here and speak to you, do you hear His voice through me? Let not my voice be the one that you hear though it echoes in your mind because it is pretty loud. (Lots of laughs) It's a constant knowing sometimes. Let it not be my voice that saves you and delivers you. I can do nothing. It is God who delivers you and brings you conviction. It is God who changes you, it is not me. I'm just a vessel, I'm just a mouthpiece, I am that. But when you hear my voice coming out and sending forth, let it be the voice of the Lord that echoes in your Spirit.

It's time for me to change. It is time for me to set my house in order. It is time says the Lord. It is time for me to choose my God and to serve God because the time is coming that God is getting ready to divide churches. Divide you and separate you from where you are right now. Are you ready to let go of your church, of your Pastors, of your children, of your house, of your home, of your car, of your money just to serve God? I am. I've done it and I'll do it again, and again, and again because this world and everything I have means nothing to me because this cannot save me. Only my God. He may take me home tonight.

I was telling somebody about a vision I had. One thing, in tears, as I looked at him I said when I heard that trumpet blast of the announcement of the coming of the King, I jumped out of my chair and I opened my door and the Lord allowed me to hear that. He said this is what they will hear before I come. I jumped out of my chair and opened my door and looked at the sky. I said, "No not yet," and I started to cry and said, "I'm not ready. Don't come yet, I'm not ready." We're all not ready. I don't want to lose any of you, not before your time. Child and adult choose your God.

Let God be the Lord in your life in all things and He will guide your way. My heart is going out to someone. God is really touching someone because we have to choose. The time is coming and life is short. We don't know if we won't see tomorrow rather it be friend, foe, or family. We don't know. It's God's choice, not ours. I say to you right now choose your God and allow that God to guide you into the lives of your family and your friends that they too may know the God and choose for themselves. Your friends are important to God because He knows that we will end up in the place, in the New Jerusalem, and we're there. Streets will be loaded with friends and family. I want to see my friends, I want to see my family, I want to see all of you because what a rejoicing we will have. What a party we will have. This will be for that. We step forth and we look and we say, "Now is the time and now is the hour, are we ready?" I say, "I'm not ready. Not yet Lord, I am not ready. I'm not ready, give me one more day." When I opened my eyes I said, "Thank you Jesus, another day. Thank you Lord for allowing me to see the faces of my children, to smell the air again giving me another chance to set it right." So today I tell you choose your God. Choose your God and let it be so and let it be done. Walk the path He has called you to walk. Live your call and let the Spirit of God guide you. Do not let the flesh take hold.

I'm going to introduce you to the church of Laodicea in **Revelation 3:14-22**. We're going to talk about this church because God is talking about us.

v.14 *“And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, ‘These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God:*

v.15 *“I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot.*

v.16 *So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.*

v.17 *Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked.*

v.18 *I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.*

v.19 *As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.*

v.20 *Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.*

v.21 *To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne,... (“How many of you have had that vision of sitting on the lap of the Father? I have seen it and I plan to do it again. It’s daily.”) as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.*

v.22 *“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.””*

God is talking to all of you, choose your God. Make your choice. Be hot, be cold, do not be lukewarm. At least make up your mind. If you want to be here, be here. If you want to be somewhere else, be somewhere else, but don’t falter. Make a choice, stand strong, get ready to be used. Are we all going to continue to sit in the chairs, in the pews, and worship God from there and say, “God use me,” and yet we refuse to get off the chair, raise a hand, or lift up a voice and say, “I want to help.” If that’s you, pick your God. I’m talking to you because God pushes people forward. He doesn’t stifle, He doesn’t sit, and He doesn’t tape you down to the chair. He says, “Get up and serve Me, pick up your cross and follow Me, and do what needs to be done for My church.”

So tonight when you go home and you spend time with God in your secret place, choose Him. Let Him know you’ve chosen Him. Let Him know how much you love Him. Let Him know how much you care. Let Him know that He is the God of your life. And that all else you shall forsake for His work, for His duty, for all that He’s done for you. That’s the least we can do. So let the word of our Lord burn inside of you now and forever. Amen!