

PREPARING THE ALTAR

1 Kings 18:30–32 NKJV

One of the distinctive of our fellowship is that we are EVANGELISTIC. We take the Gospel outside of the church, and into the community. Not only do we plant the seed of the Gospel, we build an altar for salvation. Every event we do is aimed at preparing an altar for people to encounter Jesus.

In the passage we are going to look at; Elijah repairs and builds an altar where the people encounter God! This presents an application for us; every outreach is about building an altar to experience God

I GATHERING A CROWD:

A- Every outreach should have a crowd draw-

1. Passage: Elijah is dealing with a compromising people, his goal is to show them Baal has no power-
 - a. He presents a challenge to the false prophets, and this gathers a crowd-
 - i. **1 Kings 18:19** Now therefore send and gather all Israel to me at Mount Carmel, and the 450 prophets of Baal and the 400 prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table."
2. Now for us today; you have to think: What is the target crowd, and why will they come?
 - a. Your event needs to match your target audience.
3. We just had a basketball tournament... it was overall a young man's outreach-
 - a. Hope for Evan Hansen drew a wider audience, but an audience that appreciated musicals & plays
 - b. Healing services usually draw the sick-
4. Whatever it is; You need to make sure your event appeals to your target.

B- If you can understand this; You will be able to successfully gather a crowd.

1. It will influence your advertisement... it will influence your pre-outreach location targets...
2. Outreach is spiritual (dominion & salvation)... but its also Practical... uses common sense.
 - a. We need both... *"Work like it all depends on you, Pray like it all depends on God"*

II BUILDING THE ALTAR:

A- Before the fire falls Elijah builds an altar-

1. **1 Kings 18:30–32**... V30 says he repaired the altar... V32 He built an altar...
 - a. This teaches us that preparation goes into outreach-
2. Some things will be sporadic inspiration... but most of our outreaches require building.
 - a. This has to do with the size of our church (we have to facilitate a larger crowd)
 - b. We have to consider their schedule (Our church is involved in more than one thing- lots of other events)

B- So; The altar building has to do with the planning & organizing/the work of equipment and materials/the personnel

1. What are you going to do? Where are you going to do it? When are you going to do it?
2. What are you going to need to accomplish this? (Band/sound/permits/booths/fliers/banners/people/Advanced outreach/Insurance)... COMMUNICATION!
3. This is all work... but remember why your doing it... for the Altar Call
 - a. I have seen some great "in the moment" "impromptu" outreaches see fruit...
 - i. But I have seen more often the prepared, repaired, built altar have more success.
4. Altar building is key... You must be willing to put in the work.
 - a. Matt has put together a paper that will help you with these details... This means you have to think... beyond today

III THE PREPARED ALTAR:

A- We know the story: God shows up, and fire falls from heaven!

1. Understand: God can move through anything and anyone... but God is also into planning-
 - a. **Jeremiah 29:11** For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD... The plans... God plans things out
 - b. **Philippians 1:6** being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.
 - i. God is a worker! And blesses the labor-
2. You will give your outreach a fighting chance, and the most success if you can remember its for the Altar Call-
 - a. I am preparing the Altar for people to encounter God.