

CHOOSING THE *Extraordinary* LIFE

ELIJAH'S 7 SECRETS FOR
SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

JESUS' 4 TIPS FOR BURNING YOUR SHIPS

MATTHEW 16:24-25

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Introduction: Last time we began looking at Elijah's fourth secret for living a significant and successful life: learning to "burn the ships" by making the decision to follow God regardless of the consequences.

I. **Four Responses To Elijah's "Burn The Ships" Challenge** (1 Kings 18:1-21)

- A. Elijah: Faithful and Fearless
- B. Obadiah: Faithful and Fearful
- C. Ahab: Faithless and Fearless
- D. The People: Faithless and Fearful** (1 Kings 18:19-21)

1 Kings 18:21 "And Elijah came near to all the people and said, 'How long will you hesitate between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him.' But the people did not answer him a word."

Joshua 24:14-15 ¹⁴ "Now, therefore, fear the LORD and serve Him in sincerity and truth; and put away the gods which your fathers served beyond the River [Euphrates] and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. ¹⁵ If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

II. **Jesus' "Burn The Ships" Challenge** (Matthew 16:24-25)

Matthew 16:24-25 ²⁴ "Then Jesus said to His disciples, 'If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. ²⁵ For whoever wishes to save his life shall lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake shall find it.'"

A. Get Your Priorities Straight (Matthew 8:18-22)

Matthew 8:18-20 ¹⁸ “Now when Jesus saw a crowd around Him, He gave orders to depart to the other side. ¹⁹ And a certain scribe came and said to Him, ‘Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go.’ ²⁰ And Jesus said to him, ‘The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.’”

Matthew 8:21-22 ²¹ “And another of the disciples said to Him, ‘Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father.’ ²² But Jesus said to him, ‘Follow Me; and allow the dead to bury their own dead.’”

B. Get Rid of Your Prejudices (John 13:35)

John 13:35 “By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

C. Get Your Pleasures Aligned with God’s Will (Matthew 16:24)

Ecclesiastes 2:24-25 ²⁴ “There is nothing better for a man than to eat and drink and tell himself that his labor is good. This also I have seen, that it is from the hand of God. ²⁵ For who can eat and who can have enjoyment without Him?”

Luke 8:14 “And the seed which fell among the thorns, these are the ones who have heard, and as they go on their way they are choked with worries and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to maturity.”

Matthew 16:24 “Then Jesus said to His disciples, ‘If anyone wishes to come after Me [as a disciple], he must deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.’”

D. Get a Handle on Your Possessions (Matthew 19:16-22)

Matthew 19:21 “Jesus said to him [the young man] ‘If you wish to be complete, go and sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you shall have treasure in heaven; and come follow Me.’”

Conclusion