



Notes | November 5, 2023

Battle for Your Heart: First and Best

“The ladder you choose is the ladder you lean on.”

For most of us, there exists not only a battle for our minds, but also a battle for our hearts. We have a real enemy that seeks to influence what we worship and to establish lordship in our lives. Just as the battle for our minds revolves around the lies we may believe, the battle for our hearts revolves around what gets our first and our best. God does not separate our hearts from our homes, our souls from our careers, or our spirits from our calendars. He desires to be first in every area, for He knows that our hearts are intertwined in every aspect of our daily lives. So, in this battle, may we surrender our hearts to the One who is truly worthy of lordship in our lives, offering Him our first and best in all areas.

Key Scripture | 1 Kings 18:17

Elijah went before the people and said, “How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him.

Related Scriptures

Mark 12:30, Exodus 20:3, Proverbs 4:23, Matthew 6:24a, Matthew 6:21, Hebrews 13:5-6

Icebreakers:

Q. If you could witness any event from the Bible first-hand, what would it be and why?



Key Thoughts and Reflections:

I. The ladder you choose is the ladder you lean on.

Q:

Q: Where, other than God, are you tempted to put your faith and trust?

Q: How can we recognize when our trust is in worldly things? What can we do to prevent our faith from crumbling when faced with challenges?

II. Pick your ladder.

Q: In what ways might people unknowingly prioritize something other than God in their lives?

What are some common idols people have today?

Q: Share a story from a time you felt torn between trusting in God and relying on something else. What did you end up relying on?

Q: What are a few practical adjustments you could make today to get on God's Ladder?

III. The ladder you choose is the LORD you lean on.

Q: Can you share about a time where you chose God over money or material possessions?

What was the outcome? How did it affect your relationship with God?

Q: Have you ever noticed a conflict between pursuing financial security and serving God? How do you strike a balance?

Q: What would you say to encourage someone who may be facing a similar situation of giving God their first and best?

Get Practical

This week, spend time in prayer surrendering the who or what is getting your first and best. Pray through these questions:

- What do I need to surrender that is getting my first and best, over God?
- In what areas of my life do I need to trust to God to protect and provide?