I Kings 18:1-19
<u>You Can Do Good</u>

Welcome back and here we go! Tonight I am back with a message of encouragement. I think sometimes I get exhausted --- struggling with doing the right things. I mean, why is it such a struggle --- this dance with sin and holiness? I am not sure, but I know this: YOU <u>CAN</u> DO GOOD. I know you can, so wherever you are in your struggle today, I want to give you a message of hope!

I Kings 18:1-19

1) _____ is an _____ hero!

We will get back to that. Let's look at ***I Kings 18 & 19***. Many of us are familiar with this story.

- *I Kings 17* – Elijah proclaims a drought.
- *I Kings 18:1-19* – Elijah proclaims end to drought and confronts evil Ahab.
- *I Kings 18:20-40* – Elijah challenges Baal prophets, calls down fire, executes them.
- *I Kings 18:41-46* – Drought ends.
- *I Kings 19* – Jezebel threatens Elijah and he runs and hides.
- *I Kings 19:11-18* – God reveals Himself in a "still small voice".
- *I Kings 19:19-21* – Elijah annoints Elisha.

All of these are wonderful starting points for amazing messages, but that is the joy of searching the scriptures and being sensitive to the Spirit. Someone here tonight --- maybe many someone's --- needs to know that:

2) You can be _____!

What do we know about Ahab and Jezebel? Well, boiled down, they were extremely evil. In fact, today, 2900 years later, we talk about the spirit of Elijah and the spirit of Jezebel ------- this idea of <u>*warring spiritual influences over our souls*</u>.

Somehow, in all of this we have Obadiah.

I Kings 18:1-4 And it came to pass after many days that the word of the Lord came to Elijah, in the third year, saying, "Go, present yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the earth." [2] So Elijah went to present himself to Ahab; and there was a severe famine in Samaria. [3] And Ahab had called Obadiah, who was in charge of his house. (Now Obadiah feared the Lord greatly. [4] For so it was, while Jezebel massacred the prophets of the Lord, that Obadiah had taken one hundred prophets and hidden them, fifty to a cave, and had fed them with bread and water.)

3) Obadiah did the _____ things in a _____ environment.

We could easily skip over this part --- this messenger of Elijah --- this servant of Ahab. But we shouldn't. Many times we see people of God in horrible circumstances who RISE ABOVE.

Daniel 1:3-4 and 18-20 [3] Then the king instructed Ashpenaz, the master of his eunuchs, to bring some of the children of Israel and some of the king's descendants and some of the nobles, [4] young men in whom there was no blemish, but good-looking, gifted in all wisdom, possessing knowledge and quick to understand, who had ability to serve in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the language and literature of the Chaldeans. [18] Now at the end of the days, when the king had said that they should be brought in, the chief of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar. [19] Then the king interviewed them, and among them all none was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah; therefore they served before the king. [20] And in all matters of

wisdom and understanding about which the king examined them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers who were in all his realm.

These men were trained in all the Chaldean ways and offered all that was to be had. Yet they chose to be GOOD so-to-speak.

Obviously, these people are considered heroes of the faith. They had a supernatural ability to stay HOLY. I often feel I lack that quality! My sin always brings me to a place of sadness and a little resignation……. Why can't I get it right? I would like to propose to you today that <u>YOU CAN DO GOOD</u>.

James 5:13-18…….. [17] Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. [18] And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.

4) Elijah had a _____ just like _____.

That always encourages me because I know my nature. You can do this. <u>YOU CAN DO GOOD</u>.

Where are you struggling today? What is you major upset – mentally, emotionally, spiritually? Where do you feel like you are failing? Seriously, consider this now. Like I Kings, do not let your personal story get lost in all the things we already know.

Hebrews 12:3-4 and 12 [3] For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. [4] You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin. [12] Therefore strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees,…

Be encouraged. Find your footing. What do you need to do different? Often our struggles are easier if we do something different. <u>YOU CAN DO GOOD</u>.

Galatians 6:9-10 [9] And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. [10] Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

YOU CAN DO GOOD. IT IS A CHOICE.

Make a determination now to **quit --- stop --- redirect --- think differently --- be more accepting --- forgive --- help someone who doesn't deserve it.**

YOU CAN DO GOOD. Decide NOW.

I Kings 18:20-21 [20] So Ahab sent for all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together on Mount Carmel. [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.

5) How long will you _____?

Do not keep going back to mental attitudes and behaviors that keep you from God.

YOU CAN DO GOOD. CHOOSE NOW!