October 19, 2025
Sea Change Church
Elijah – From Drought To Downpour
S1E8: Repair The Altar
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1 Kings 18:30-35

Vs. 30 Then Elijah said to all the people, “Come near to me.” And all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD that had been thrown down. **31** Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD came, saying, “Israel shall be your name,” **32** and with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD. And he made a trench about the altar, as great as would contain two seahs of seed. **33** And he put the wood in order and cut the bull in pieces and laid it on the wood. And he said, “Fill four jars with water and pour it on the burnt offering and on the wood.” **34** And 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. **35** And the water ran around the altar and filled the trench also with water.

1. **There is Power in Proximity**
2. **Repair your Altars**

1. **There is Power in Proximity— Vs. 30** Then Elijah said to all the people, “Come near to me.”
    a. **John 6:35–37 (ESV)** Jesus said to them,“I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.
    b. **Matthew 11:28–30 (ESV) “Come to me**, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.
    Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.
    For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Finding Jesus in a Modern World:

- **Detaching from Noise and Distraction:** In a digital age, one of the most countercultural ways to come to Jesus is to be still.
- **Live in Spiritual Rhythms:** Living in spiritual rhythms—through Scripture, prayer, and gathering in community—anchors your soul in God's presence, bringing clarity in confusion, strength in struggle, and purpose in every step.

"The most important thing in your life is not what you do; it's who you become. That's what you will take into eternity. And you become that person by living close to Jesus."
— Dallas Willard

2. **Repair your Altars— Vs. 30b** And all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD that had been thrown down. **31** Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD came, saying, "Israel shall be your name," **32** and with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD.
    - Before calling fire from heaven, Elijah did something first — **he repaired the altar.**

UNDERTANDING ALTARS
Altars are the sacred spaces or priorities in our lives where we intentionally meet with God, honor Him, and offer parts of ourselves—our time, trust, relationships, and obedience—as acts of worship.

- **12 STONES:** 1. Prayer, 2. The Word, 3. Marriage, 4. Health, 5. Rest, 6. Community, 7. Purpose, 8. Gratitude, 9. Repentance, 10. Giving, 11. Service, 12. Worship.

WHAT BREAKS DOWN THE ALTAR?

1. **Neglect** – Good things become fragile when ignored.

2. **Idolatry** – Like Israel, we let other things (success, entertainment, self) take God's place.

3. **Wounds and disappointments** – Pain makes us pull away from the very places God wants to heal.

4. **Distraction and busyness** – We crowd out time with God, and the altar crumbles under life's clutter.

A broken altar doesn't mean God left you — it just means it's time to rebuild.

Practical Takeaway: Identify your broken altars

Small Group Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean for *you* to “come near” to God right now?
2. Which altar in your life needs repair — prayer, rest, or something else?
3. What’s one distraction that keeps you from spiritual proximity?
4. Why do you think Elijah repaired the altar *before* calling for fire?
5. How can we rebuild rhythms that bring God’s presence back to the center?