

# SOWING THE MISSIONAL LIFE

## The Call for an Uncivilized Religion

Isaiah 58

### I. What are the staples of a civilized religion?

- Religious posing -
- Lots of Bible knowledge -
- Keeping the external rules -
- Controlled spirituality -

### II. What do these suggest about the inner-person (or the faith-community)?

When we cling to a civilized, tame religion and turn to God and say, "OK, Your turn", we demonstrate a presumption with God.

### III. God wants us to have an "uncivilized" relationship with Him and the world around us!!

- A. God's assignment of being a change agent (Genesis 12 and being a blessing)
- B. How Israel became a religious institution instead of a transforming power.

### IV. What are the right questions to be asking ourselves?

- *Wrong question* - How do we get more people to come to this building on Sundays?
- **Right question** - How do we transform our community and hit the streets with the gospel?<sup>1</sup>
- *Wrong question* - How do we explain Christianity better?
- **Right question** - How do we live Christianity better?
- *Wrong question* - How do we get back to the way things used to be?
- **Right question** - How do we honestly fulfill our mission?

<sup>1</sup>McNeal, Reggie, The Present Future, pub. by Jossey Bass, 2003, pp. 24-42

### *Study Questions for November 1*

1. Read 1 Kings 18-19 five times this week.
2. Read 1 Kings 16:29-17:1. What was the environment in which Elijah ministered? What are the parallels between Elijah's world and our own?
3. Read 1 Kings 18:1-38. In what ways did Elijah demonstrate his faith in God? What were the underlying pressures in his confrontation with Ahab and the false prophets?
4. Read 1 Kings 19:1-8. What is so surprising about Elijah's reaction to Jezebel given what he had just experienced? What may have led to his spiritual dryness? What were some things he did to regain strength?
5. Read 1 King 19:7-18. Compare this encounter with God to Exodus 33:17-34:8. How important do you think cultivating the inner life is to ministerial effectiveness? How does Elijah illustrate this idea?