


“Ahab said to Obadiah, “We must check every spring and valley in the land to see if we can find enough grass to save at least some of my horses and mules.” 1 Kings 18:5 NLT

lectio // 1 Kings 18:1-18

This is one of those, “let them eat cake” moments in a leader blinded by selfishness. This “Marie-Antoinette” moment, which it turns out never happened, is just the sort of thing God warned Israel about when asking for a king. Ahab is THREE years into a countrywide drought, where crops have failed and food is scarce and he grabs his palace manager to go off looking for grass and water for his horses. Yes, horses and animals are precious, but the entire country is starving! Obadiah is said to be a godly man, saving 100 priests from being murdered by the crazy queen Jezebel. They separate and this is when Obadiah “happens” to run into Elijah. Elijah, it seems, has been scarce as well because Jezebel wanted to have him killed. When the king and prophet meet there’s a cool junior high moment in exchange of words. Ahab calls Elijah a troublemaker and Elijah retorts back, “you’re the troublemaker” because you ignore God’s commands, you worship baal and have idols setup all over the country! Then there’s a dramatic western themed music in the background when Elijah says get your wife’s 900! false prophets together and meet me at sundown - er, Mount Carmel. Ahab has just ran out of time and God’s patience.

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Dad,

These bad king, good king scenarios are all through the Old Testament, and my guess is the same story plays out today in many leadership stories. I am not a king, nor do I want to behave like a king while serving as a leader. I was reminded yesterday, how there is still a longing in people’s hearts for that kind of leader. I do not believe any of the gifts to the church mention a king! Yet these examples of how this “kingship” mentality can be so seductive and alluring to the human heart. I do not want to be a casualty of that enlarged  on my back. Help me to serve, always. Help me to remember my frailties and frame of clay feet.

contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root