

The Contest on Mount Carmel – Only God shows up – Wednesday in 10th Week of Ordinary Time June 10th, 2020. (1Kings 18:20-39, Matthew 5:17-19)

Dear brothers and sisters, what happens if you organised a context and nobody came? I remember in High School when we used to play interschool soccer, we would go for a soccer match only to realise our opponents never showed up. In such situation, the referee would declare us winners of the match and awarded us three points and three goals. Our first reading today from 1Kings presents us with the story of the Contest on Mount Carmel. Baal was the Canaanite god of rain and fertility. Jezebel, the wife of king Ahab had determined to replace the worship of Yahweh with Baal worship.

Jezebel had succeeded in killing the prophets of Yahweh leaving only Elijah to contest with the worshippers of Baal. So, Elijah called for a contest between Yahweh and Baal on Mount Carmel and he sets the conditions by giving every possible advantage to the prophets of Baal. After all the antics or gymnastics of the prophets of Baal, their god never showed up. The god they called the rider of the clouds and fire failed them that day on Mount Carmel. There used to be an old television commercial to show that their products are dependable, would say, “If you can’t trust your god, who can trust you”

We have a God we can depend on. Elijah confessed him as God and made a brief simple prayer to him who showed up to consume his sacrifice with fire. Our gospel reading today from Matthew says that till heaven and earth pass away not even one letter of God’s Word will pass away. Let us only trust and depend on God and he will win all our battles for us. **Amen.**

By Fr. Emmanuel Subaar