

## Today's Message Outline: "Losers Limp"

### Losers Limp – "I used to have great faith and then..."

"...How long will you go limping between two different opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him."

– 1 Kings 18:21 (ESV)

Now Elijah the Tishbite, of Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, before whom I stand, there shall be neither dew nor rain these years, except by my word."

– 1 Kings 17:1 (ESV)

### Yahweh was considered to be a "generalist God." Baal was deemed a "specialist god."

<sup>17</sup> When Ahab saw Elijah, Ahab said to him, "Is it you, you troubler of Israel?" <sup>18</sup> And he answered, "I have not troubled Israel, but you have, and your father's house, because you have abandoned the commandments of the LORD and followed the Baals. <sup>19</sup> Now therefore send and gather all Israel to me at Mount Carmel, and the 450 prophets of Baal and the 400 prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table." – 1 Kings 18:17-19 (ESV)

<sup>23</sup> "Let two bulls be given to us, and let them choose one bull for themselves and cut it in pieces and lay it on the wood, but put no fire to it. And I will prepare the other bull and lay it on the wood and put no fire to it. <sup>24</sup> And you call upon the name of your god, and I will call upon the name of the LORD, and the God who answers by fire, he is God." And all the people answered, "It is well spoken." – 1 Kings 18:23-24 (ESV)

<sup>26</sup> "...Baal, answer us!" But there was no voice, and no one answered. And they limped around the altar that they had made. <sup>27</sup> And at noon Elijah mocked them, saying, "Cry aloud, for he is a god. Either he is musing, or he is relieving himself, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is asleep and must be awakened." – 1 Kings 18:26-27 (ESV)

<sup>36</sup> "...O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel, and that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your word. <sup>37</sup> Answer me, O LORD, answer me, that this people may know that you, O LORD, are God, and that you have turned their hearts back." <sup>38</sup> Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. <sup>39</sup> And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, "The LORD, he is God; the LORD, he is God." – 1 Kings 18:36-39 (ESV)

### "There is an immense difference between training to do something and trying to do something."

Spiritual Disciplines are not...

- A way to earn **favor** with God.
- Necessarily **unpleasant**.
- A spirituality scorecard.

Spiritual Disciplines ...

- Allow us to do what we cannot do by **willpower** alone.
- Are activities that will help you gain power to live life as Jesus taught and modeled.
- Are rest for your **soul**.

### Small Group or Personal Reflection Questions:

1. Are there moments in your life when your faith does not seem to be working? Moments when your faith really needs to show up, to be strong and, when we fall back and hope our faith 'catches' us, faith comes up short? It's there, but frankly it's not enough, it's exhausted, it's tired, the old faith gas tank is on "E"? Currently is your faith tank on Empty – ¼– ½– ¾– Full?
2. Have you struggled with "Losers Limp" in the past? Are you struggling with it now?
3. What are some of the "specialist gods" of today's culture? Which are you prone to "call on" from time to time?
4. Are you doing more training or more trying when it comes to your relationship with God?
5. Did you make a commitment to participating in Spring Training at North Way? If so, what? If not, why?