

Learning the Power of God's Whisper

August 6, 2017

OLD TESTAMENT
ENCOUNTERS
WITH GOD

Open: Take a minute to recall together the story of what has happened with Elijah (1 Kings 16-18) up to where our text begins. Reflect on what it might've been like to be in Elijah's role.

Read: 1 Kings 19:1-18

Discuss:

1. What do Jezebel's actions in verses 1 and 2 reveal about her heart? Why would Elijah be afraid of Jezebel? How does this fear contrast with what we previously observe in Elijah's behavior? How might we account for this difference?
2. First Elijah flees from Israel to the land of Judah and then leaves his servant to go even further south eventually ending up at a cave in Horeb (Mount Siani). What can we learn about Elijah's state of mind as he makes this journey? Can you relate?
3. What are some effects that come when we experience discouragement in serving God? If you met Elijah as he was fleeing south, what might you say to him? Is being discouraged sinful? What can we do to honor God when we feel discouraged and depressed?
4. Why do you think God fed Elijah for his long journey and then asked him why he is there upon arriving? God seems to extend grace in the midst of Elijah's emotional spiral, what does this tell us about God's behavior toward His people? What does this mean for you?
5. How would you describe Elijah's response to God's question in verses 9 and 10? To what degree would you say Elijah's complaint is selfish? Why does God sometimes withhold good things from us? How should we respond to God's withholding?
6. In contrast with Elijah's feelings in verses 10 and 14 what comfort does God offer in verse 18? How does this comfort address Elijah's distress? What comfort does this offer us?

Apply: Elijah had a role to play in fulfilling God's plan. What is God's role for you? How are you tempted to run from this role? How does Elijah's story offer you hope?

Pray: Ask God to give you clear direction through His Word and through the leading of the Holy Spirit as to what you can do to join in what He is doing. Pray that God raises up an army of servants including yourself who operate in His power.

1 Kings 19:1-18

^[1] Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. ^[2] Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So may the gods do to me and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by this time tomorrow." ^[3] Then he was afraid, and he arose and ran for his life and came to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there.

^[4] But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he asked that he might die, saying, "It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my fathers." ^[5] And he lay down and slept under a broom tree. And behold, an angel touched him and said to him, "Arise and eat." ^[6] And he looked, and behold, there was at his head a cake baked on hot stones and a jar of water. And he ate and drank and lay down again. ^[7] And the angel of the LORD came again a second time and touched him and said, "Arise and eat, for the journey is too great for you." ^[8] And he arose and ate and drank, and went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb, the mount of God.

^[9] There he came to a cave and lodged in it. And behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and he said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ^[10] He said, "I have been very jealous for the LORD, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away." ^[11] And he said, "Go out and stand on the mount before the LORD." And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore the mountains and broke in pieces the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. And after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. ^[12] And after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire the sound of a low whisper. ^[13] And when Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. And behold, there came a voice to him and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ^[14] He said, "I have been very jealous for the LORD, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away." ^[15] And the LORD said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus. And when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael to be king over Syria. ^[16] And Jehu the son of Nimshi you shall anoint to be king over Israel, and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah you shall anoint to be prophet in your place. ^[17] And the one who escapes from the sword of Hazael shall Jehu put to death, and the one who escapes from the sword of Jehu shall Elisha put to death. ^[18] Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

(ESV)