

HERITAGE PARK

ALLIANCE CHURCH

12 Life Lessons from the Old Testament: Elijah

March – Week 3

1 Kings 19:3 Elijah was afraid and ran for his life.

vs 4 “I have had enough, Lord,” he said. “Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors.”

vs 9 And the word of the Lord came to him: “What are you doing here, Elijah?” 10 He replied, “I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too.”

vs 11 Then a great and powerful wind came, but the Lord was not in the wind...there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. 12 Then came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper.

Study Questions

1. Looking at what happened in I Kings 18, why is it surprising that Elijah fled for his life? What kind of reception do you think he had expected at the palace?
2. What is suspicious about Jezebel's threat (1 Kings 19:2,3); but how did Elijah see it? (The phrase 'Elijah was afraid' can be translated 'Elijah saw')
3. How did God deal with Elijah's prayer (19:4), and his despair (vs 5-8), and what was God inviting with His question (vs 9)? Are there lessons here for us?
4. What is the significance of God's demonstrations in 19:11-12?
5. What does God do for Elijah in 19:16-17 (especially with Elisha), and what is His corrective in vs 18? (see also verse 10)

Reflections

1. Looking back on times of discouragement and despair in your life, can you see any parallels with Elijah's story, either in what precipitated it, and how God brought you through it?
2. Is it a sign of spiritual failure if we experience depression? Does God chastise us for it, based on how God deals with Elijah here?
3. How can we best reach out to others experiencing deep discouragement? What are some unhelpful responses?

This week we are listening to

Desert Song
Living Hope
I Lift my Hands

Other Scriptures to consider

Psalms 42 and 43
Isaiah 40
Matthew 17:1-13
James 5:17-18

Sermon Points

Causes of Elijah's despair:

- 1 Physical and emotional exhaustion
- 2 Loss of role
- 3 Disillusionment
 - with people, with himself, with God
- 4 Loss of hope
- 5 Unrealized expectations
- 6 Spiritual warfare

God's loving response:

- 1 Listening presence
- 2 Physical provision (rest, food)
- 3 Spiritual renewal
- 4 Tender invitation and gentle whisper
- 5 Gracious recommissioning (something to do)
- 6 Corrected perspective (you're not alone)
- 7 Meaningful relationships (Elisha)

Notes