

“Elijah and the Gentle Whisper”

1 Kings 19

Introduction: Two noteworthy things about Elijah

- A. He was regarded by the people of Israel as a _____ of faith
 1. He was one of two men who apparently did not experience **conventional death** (2 Kings 2:11)
 2. He was one of two men who stood with Jesus on the Mount of **Transfiguration** (Luke 9:30-31)
 3. The “last word” of the Old Testament (Malachi 4:6) is a prophecy that Elijah would return the “turn the hearts” of the people back to God. He was the prototype for **John the Baptizer**, the last of the OT prophets (Matthew 11:11-14; 17:10-13).
 4. He played a prominent role in the “Messianic Expectation” of Jewish people in the time of Christ (Matthew 16:13-14).
- B. His personal revelation of God from the mountain came not as the result of great spiritual accomplishment, but rather spectacular _____.

I. QUALITIES that marked Elijah as a great man of God

- A. He was convinced of the **reality** of Yahweh (1 Kings 18:21, 37)
- B. He accepted God’s call to be his **representative** at a time when almost no one was a public follower of Yahweh (1 Kings 18:3-4)
- C. He was a **bold** confronter of evil.
- D. He was **obedient** to the commands of God (1 Kings 17:5-10)
- E. He was fully engaged with the living God through **prayer** (James 5:17-18; Deuteronomy 11:16-17; 1Kings 18:41-45).
- F. He was **patient** in awaiting the outworking of God’s plan (1 Kings 18:1)
- G. He **trusted** in the Lord’s provisions in the midst of God’s judgment on those around him.
- H. He understood that God + **one** = a majority (1 Kings 18:17-40)

II. WEAKNESSES that contributed to Elijah’s failure (James 5:17; 1 Kings 19)

- A. Because of faulty _____ of what he thought God would do, Elijah probably felt let down or abandoned by God.
- B. He allowed physical and emotional _____ to distort his perspective.
- C. He developed an inflated view of his own _____ in the scheme of things, which led to disillusionment when he couldn’t pull off a complete victory.
- D. Elijah wrongly measured the “success” of his mission in terms of the _____ of the people.
- E. In the face of hardness of heart, Elijah developed a deep _____ toward those he was called to minister to.

III. The ENCOUNTER on the Mountain

A. God's question:

B. Elijah's _____:

1. "I've been _____"
2. "Israel has been _____"
3. "Your cause is _____"

C. God's correction:

1. The "message" of the wind, earthquake and fire: *"I am the same God – the God of the _____."*
2. The "message" of the instruction to stand in His presence: *"As I was with _____ (who led unbelieving, stiff-necked people), so I am with you."*
3. The "message" of the "gentle whisper": *"The hearts of people are not turned by great displays of power but by the quiet revelation and reception of God's _____."*
 - a. There are limits to what power can accomplish
 - 1) Obedience = _____
 - 2) Loyalty based on the _____ of deity..
 - b. Who hears the "gentle whisper" of God?

D. God's question:

E. Elijah's _____:

F. God's commission: Go _____

1. This is not the _____.
2. I am going to enlist _____ through whom I will carry out my purposes.
3. In my time and in my way I will _____ on those who deserve it.
4. By the way, there are _____ others on our side.

IV. Postscript to the Meeting on the Mountain

- A. The Sealing of Ahab's/Jezebel's Doom – Naboth's vineyard (I Kings 21)
- B. More Fire from the sky – Elijah and Ahaziah (2 Kings 1)
- C. Going up in a blaze of glory – Elijah's grand departure (2 Kings 2)

V. **Concluding idea:** a serious encounter with the reality of one's flaw(s) or weakness(es) may become the "mountain top" where one comes to _____ God "as He is." God's goodness was revealed to Elijah when He _____ his faulty image of God and _____ him from his failure.

Question: What should I do if I become overwhelmed by difficult circumstances/sinful people?

- A. Address any _____ that may have contributed to the letdown.
- B. Get _____.
- C. Return to the _____.
- D. Count on God to provide _____.