

FACING UNCERTAINTY

1 KINGS 17, 18, 19

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The Theme of This Lesson

When Looking Ahead Makes You Worried and Fearful, Look Back and Remember Why?

- 1) There are things we have forgotten
- 2) There are some things that we don't know
- 3) If you have been a Christian for any length of time, God's faithfulness to you in the past should cast a shadow on your future
- 4) In an airplane, sometimes when there is no turbulence, they will tell you that you can remove your seatbelt and walk about the cabin
- 5) On the other hand, the fasten seatbelt sign will come on in flight telling you that turbulence is expected soon
- 6) Remember, in this life, Christians will have "turbulence."

John 16:33

Elijah Forgot About Turbulence!

- In the Old Testament, for a while, the Kingdom of Israel was split between Israel and Judah
- When Israel had no Godly king, God would send a prophet to speak for Him. So when Ahab turned against God, He sent Elijah
- Ahab was the 8th king Israel had
- He married Jezebel, a foreign woman, which was against the law
- When you marry the devil's child remember who your father-in-law is
- 1Kings 16:33,34 says that he did more to provoke the Lord than all the kings before him (Rebuilt the walls of Jericho - a no no)

- God sent Elijah to warn Ahab then he took care of Elijah
- He announced to Ahab that there would be no rain for several years
- Then God sent Elijah to the brook Cherith to drink and sent ravens to feed him while he hid him from Ahab
- When the brook dried up, God sends Elijah to a widow in Zarephath (Jezebel's home)
- Three years later, God sends Elijah back to Ahab to announce that rain is coming again, 1 Kings 18

- In 1 Kings 18, Ahab is angry, desperate and Elijah challenges all 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of Asheroth to a duel
- The 850 false prophets spend all day praying and asking their God to show up at an altar with fire and consume it (they even cut their own arteries when nobody for them shows up)
- Then Elijah drowns his altar with water and prays for God to come and He does and Zaps the altar
- Then everybody says God is Lord

Then the Story Takes an Interesting Turn (1 Kings 19)

- Ahab goes home and tells Jezebel of his defeat and how all of his prophets died at the showdown
- His wife then says “I want the gods to kill me if I haven’t killed Elijah by tomorrow
- When Elijah, our brother, hears this, after doing God’s work, he flees to Beersheba (over 100 miles away, a 2 weeks journey and then leaves his servant there and runs another days journey by himself)

- Sometimes when God's child does their best working for God, difficulties are still there (turbulence)
- Notice that no matter how far Elijah ran, God still knew where he was (Psalms 139:7)
- 1 Kings 19:9 the Lord ask Elijah, "What are you doing here?"
- In verse 10 he answers God by giving God some facts, but his interpretation is wrong

Verse 10

So he said, “I have been very zealous for the Lord of Host; for the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenants, torn down your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life.”

- Elijah's interpretation of the uncertain future surrounding him left him afraid
- This is the same man who called down fire from heaven
- The same man who through God stopped the rain from falling for 3 years, and he is running from a foreign woman, whose power is calibrated
- Both you and I and God are looking at his past triumphs and experiences and saying, Elijah, you are the star of the show, you have the upper hand

But as Elijah Saw It

- “I’ve done all I can do”
- “There is no hope”
- “There is no light at the end of the tunnel”
- “I’m all alone again”
- “Nothing is going to change for me”

Then God Tries to Jog His Memory And His Perspective

Then He said, “Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord.” And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces 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....

“... and after the earthquake a fire, and after the fire a still small voice.”

Then the Lord ask him one more time, as if to say:

In light of who I am and what I can do, which you have just witnessed, what are you doing here (why are you hiding?)

Elijah Misses The Point Again

- Elijah again reiterates: Verse 14

.... “ I have been very zealous for the Lord God of hosts; because the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life.”

Then In Verses 15-18 God Informs Elijah of His Plans

- Go back the same way you came (no sneaking around) and return to the wilderness of Damascus
- When you get there, anoint Hazael, king over Syria
- You shall anoint Jehu, king over Israel
- Also, you shall find Elisha, anoint him to take your place as prophet (I've been preparing him)
- I have preserved 7000 in Israel, all whose knees have not bowed to the idol God, Baal

Elijah Learns That God Had Been Working On Some Things!!

- God had been busy!!!
- God had been working out some things, behind the scenes. Elijah needed more patience
- Waiting on God after a 3 year drought should have helped him with patience

“Wait on the Lord, Be of good courage and He shall strengthen your heart. Wait, I say, on the Lord.”

Psalms 27:15

Elijah Had 2 Problems

#1 Elijah had forgotten about God's past faithfulness to him

He had a hard time factoring in God's future faithfulness having forgotten His past faithfulness

#2 There were some things that God was doing behind the scenes for him he didn't know about

Because he didn't know what God was doing, he assumed nothing was happening

- When we lose sight of God's faithfulness to us, we don't factor in His future faithfulness
- As a result, our fears can drive us to places we have no business going, relationally, financially, emotionally, and spiritually
- So when you are tormented with uncertainty, as God's child, let your mind drift back to God's past history of faithfulness to you and His saints
- Know that things do go on in your favor behind the scenes that you can't see, but trust is necessary (Proverbs 3:5,6)

The Plan Of Salvation

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| Hear the Gospel | Acts 15:7 |
| Believe the Gospel | Acts 15:7 |
| Repent of Sins | Acts 17:30 |
| Confess Christ | Acts 8:37 |
| Be Baptized | Acts 8:38 |