

Defining Moments

Elijah: The Still Small Voice

Text: 1 Kings 19:1-18

Review of 1 Kings 18

“Oh Lord God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command. Answer me, O Lord, answer me so that these people will know that you O Lord, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again.” (1 Kings 18:36-37)

Elijah said, “Go and tell Ahab, ‘Hitch up your chariot and go down before the rain stops you.’” Meanwhile, the sky grew black with clouds, the wind rose, a heavy rain started falling and Ahab rode off to Jezreel. The power of the LORD came on Elijah and, tucking his cloak into his belt, he ran ahead of Ahab all the way to Jezreel. (1 Kings 18:42-46)

Jezebel: “May the gods deal with me be it ever so severely if by this time tomorrow I do not make you like one of them.”

How is it possible to come off such a high and end up in a place of such despair?

How does God deal with Elijah’s despair?

1. **He Revives Him**
2. **He Reveals Himself**

“Whether you’re a communist, a fascist or a libertarian, the real problem we have is not what we think the program ought to be, but that we think our program will solve the problems. These people believe if only their theory were enacted and accepted all would be well. They think that theirs is a correct analysis of society, that like a machine, all you have to do is remove the monkey wrench in the works for it to function perfectly. Because of this belief the world lives between affirmative extravagant hope and bitter disappointment. Every day politicians promise health, wealth, and peace. Newspapers demand an end to crime or propose programs to stop poverty sickness or cruelty to children and everyday politicians and newspapers therefore are forced to admit that people are still poor, still ill and still fighting one another and still dying and therefore they desperately have to blame their enemies for all this wickedness. All this is pride.”

Dick Lucas

TWO Lessons

Parable of Lazarus and the Rich Man - Luke 16:19-31

The rich man says, "I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment." "Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.'

3. He Reassigns Him

God says to Elijah, "Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael king over Aram. Also, anoint Jehu son of Nimshi king over Israel, and anoint Elisha to succeed you as prophet." (vv. 15-16)

Why would God send a prophet of Israel to anoint a pagan king?

- Are you in a place of despair?
- Do you need to take a rest, change your sleeping patterns, or eat better?
- Is God showing you something about the pride in your heart?
- Who are the 'enemies' you quickly accuse when things don't go the way they should?
- Do you get despondent when your programs do not bring about success?
- Are you taking time to listen to the still small voice of God?
- Is it possible that God is calling you to something else, He is reassigning you?

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