



Handout November 3, 2023

What Are You Doing Here?

I Kings 19:1-18

Welcome back and here we go!

I think tonight's message is one that resonates with all of us. You have probably heard this story and may have even heard me speak about this story before. But it is truly a story that keeps giving!

I Kings 19:1-11

1) Victory can _____ to _____!

How often do we set our sights on a goal ... we determine what we need to be happy or to overcome ... only to find ourselves in a different mess.

It always amazes me --- this story. How could a powerful prophet be intimidated and overwhelmed to the point of depression and suicidal thoughts, especially after such a huge victory?

2) We take our _____ off of _____.

Think about Elijah's battle with the prophets of Baal --- 1 versus 450. He had complete victory. So what happened? Better yet, *what has happened with you? Are you feeling defeated?*

Where in your life do you feel overwhelmed, overcome, fearful, or afraid?

God is with you.

3) You can't _____ at the _____.

II Corinthians 5:7 'For we walk by faith, not by sight.'

What is it that you believe about God and Jesus and the Holy Spirit? And why do your thoughts waiver? Elijah, in the beginning, was absolutely confident in God and what God expected and wanted. He was intentional. However, once he was done, he lost direction.

Have you lost direction? What problems do you have that seem overwhelming, beyond your control, causing fear, anxiety, worry, concern?

Isaiah 40:31 'But those who wait on the Lord Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.'

I always say we must confidently expect God to show up on our behalf!

I Kings 19:11-18

4) God's voice is _____, not loud and _____.

The illustration is: God was not in the fire, wind and earthquake. He was inside Elijah.

The Holy Spirit is inside you. Stop looking at the problem and look to God! He is aware and able. In fact, God does not even address Elijah's complaint does He?

5) What are you _____ ?

I can see God asking you the same question: *What are you doing here? How did you get here... to this place of sadness, distress, fear and worry?*

You got here by taking your eyes off of God and putting them on the problem.

Our God is a WAY-MAKER! He finds a way because He already has the answer!

6) God's _____ is always _____!

God just gives Elijah more things to do.

Matthew 6:31-34 *"Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.'*

Jesus said, "... **seek ... the kingdom...**". He doesn't say "figure it out on your own, really examine these problems and once you figure it out, the fire, the earthquake, the wind... once you figure it out, well, then you will have peace..."

God is aware of your issue.

Are you aware of His Presence?

What are you doing here?

7) _____ on what God has for you _____.

I have NEVER found relief by obsessing, overthinking, or focusing on big problems.

I have ALWAYS found PEACE through TRUST and FAITH.

God has you. *What are you doing here?* Come out of the cave of depression and worry and fear!

Psalms 37:4 *'Delight yourself also in the Lord, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.'*

Isaiah 26:3 *'You will keep him/her in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he/she trusts in You.'*

If you are thinking about others, you are not thinking about yourself. Use FAITH-REST.

- Identify what has mastered you
- Repent for lack of faith
- Give the problem to Jesus/God
- Thank God for His faithfulness
- Serve.

Let's pray.