

Elijah/Elisha – Standing Alone

Week 5 – The Wilderness

Transition: Last week, we witnessed the showdown between Yahweh (and His prophet Elijah) and Baal (and “his” 450 prophets). This dramatic event was completely orchestrated by God to force the people of Israel to witness firsthand the stark contrast between Yahweh, the true, all-powerful God, and every other “limp” so-called god.

Context: This week, we watch Elijah go from a spiritual high to a spiritual low. After trusting that God would show Himself in obvious and powerful ways (which He did...fire from heaven and bringing rain), once he heard of Jezebel’s threat on his life, out of fear, he runs to the wilderness to hide, where the Lord meets with him, One-on-one.

Opening Questions:

- When you think of a spiritual high that you’ve had, what comes immediately to mind? What about a spiritual low?
- Have you ever gone from a spiritual high directly into a spiritual low? What happened? How did it turn out? What did you learn through the process?

Scripture/Storying: 1 Kings 18:41 – 19:21

Discipleship Questions:

- What is your overall reaction to this passage? What impression does it make on you and why?
- What is your impression of Elijah in this passage? In what ways is he everyman (i.e., relatable to you)?
- Have you ever been in fear for your life or physical well-being? If so, share the story including how you reacted and how it turned out. How does fear affect our view of reality?
- Why do you think God manifests Himself the way He does to Elijah? What does this teach you about God? Has God ever dealt with you in a similar way? If so, share the story and what you learned.
- Elijah sincerely believes that he is the only prophet left in Israel. When have you felt alone when serving the Lord? As you look back on it, has your thinking changed? If so, how? What would you say to Elijah if you were there?
- Despite Elijah’s understandable but misguided thoughts and feelings, God’s call on Elijah as His prophet continues. What are His instructions to Elijah? If you’re Elijah, what are you feeling after hearing this?
- In what different ways does God take care of Elijah in this passage? How does it influence your view of God? ...and yourself?
- What is the Holy Spirit teaching you through this story? How does it impact the way you think and live?

Prayer time: This week we are praying for Providence Jeff City; a ministry Providence supports.

- Pray for the Lord’s provision and protection as they face a large sinkhole that has formed near their building and caused significant damage. Pray for the Lord to provide financially to repair the damage. Pray that the insurance company will approve their claim and that the building will be remedied quickly.
- Pray as they seek to place a new person into their student minister position. May the Lord bring the right person at the right time for His glory.