

Elijah Flees from Jezebel

1 Kings 19:1-8

I. Jezebel's Fury (v. 1-2)

A. Ahab Incites Jezebel. He is not witnessing but complaining to her!

B. Jezebel Threatens Elijah. When Satan is powerless to dispose of us, he often resorts to intimidation to get us to *leave* of our own volition.

II. Elijah's Flight (vs. 3-4)

A. Disappointment (Pr 13:12; Mt 11:3)—hopes dashed, progress delayed

B. Exhaustion—physically and emotionally depleted, lose perspective

C. Fear—emotions/perspective change quickly when we are depleted and an unanticipated obstacle presents itself

D. Isolation—overwhelmed with no one to share the burden or to encourage him

E. Depression (Lev 11:15)—feels he has nothing to show for his life, can't take any more, wants to die

III. God's Care (vs. 5-8; Ps 22:24) God doesn't give up on Elijah or rush him but graciously cares for him in his time of brokenness.

A. Wilderness Time (Ps 55:5-7; Jer 9:2) — soul therapy; wild, untamed, uninhabited—where God meets the desperate

1. Alone with God (Lk 5:16)

a. Away from the distractions and interference of regular life

b. Dependent upon God for sustenance and survival

2. Purifying the soul (Deut 8:15-18) — Time away helps us clarify the issues and regain perspective

3. **Reenacting Israel's wilderness wandering** — Forty days for forty years, going back to the place where God met with Moses
4. **Time to heal** (Ps 23:2-3; Isa 40:11, 42:3, 49:10)
 - a. **God is gently leading His weary servant.** Knows his limits, compassion
 - b. **God is graciously allowing him time to process.** Not rushing him

B. Angelic Ministry (Mt 4:11; Heb 1:14)

1. **Touched** — physically, but also a *touching response* to his prayer
 - **Jesus is the ultimate expression of God's compassionate touch.**
2. **Fed** (Ps 103:13-14; Mt 15:32) — nourished, strengthened for the journey
 - **Jesus knows how it feels to be tired and hungry and at the end of your physical strength.**
3. **Guarded while he slept** (Ps 4:8)

IV. God's Hand Withdrawn (1 Kings 18:46 & 19:3)

- A. **Weakness and failure are part of God's plan for our spiritual development and wellbeing.**
- B. **Occasional removal of exceptional grace is a necessary reality check.**
 1. **We are weak but He is strong.**
 2. **We must not trust in ourselves or ultimately in other people.**
 - a. **Unmitigated success is a liability to our self-worth.**
 - b. **Unmitigated success is a danger to others.** Our weakness and failures keep others from confusing us with the Messiah.
- C. **Thank God for the times He lets you feel your weakness and allow Him to minister to you.**

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