

Elijah in the Wilderness

1 Kings 19

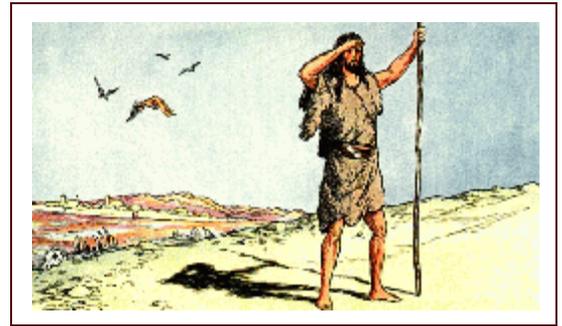
Raise your hand if you have brothers or sisters.

What do you do or should you do if you see them doing something your parents told them not to do?

How would it make you feel if they kept doing it and your parents didn't even seem to notice or care?

That's exactly how Elijah felt today in our story. He served the Lord faithfully and he just defeated the prophets of Baal by killing them on Mt. Carmel. All the people saw that God sent down the fire to prove that He was the True God of Israel and not a false god. But still, the children of Israel kept on worshiping this false god. It made Elijah so upset that he didn't even want to serve the Lord by preaching anymore. He didn't think the people would ever believe and he just wanted to die.

Is this the kind of attitude that God wants us to have? Why not? In today's story, we are going to see how God showed Elijah that he needed to change his attitude, to go and preach to the people.



Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, Thank You for giving us the Gospel so we can listen and tell others that Jesus died on the cross to take away our sins. Thank You for sending Him as our Savior. Help us to listen to the teacher. In Your name we pray. Amen.

The Story - 1 Kings 19

And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, also how he had executed all the prophets with the sword. {2} Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time."

{3} And when he saw that, he arose and ran for his life, and went to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there. {4} But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and

came and sat down under a broom tree. And he prayed that he might die, and said, "It is enough! Now, LORD, take my life, for I am no better than my fathers!" {5} Then as he lay and slept under a broom tree, suddenly an angel touched him, and said to him, "Arise and eat."

{6} Then he looked, and there by his head was a cake baked on coals, and a jar of water. So he ate and drank, and lay down again.

{7} And the angel of the LORD



came back the second time, and touched him, and said, "Arise and eat, because the journey is too great for you." {8} So he arose, and ate and drank; and he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights as far as Horeb, the mountain of God.

{9} And there he went into a cave, and spent the night in that place; and behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and He said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

{10} So he said, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God of hosts; for 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."

{11} 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; {12} and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice. {13} So it was, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave.

Suddenly a voice came to him, and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

{14} And he said, "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."

{15} Then the LORD said to him: "Go, return on your way to the Wilderness of Damascus; and when you arrive, anoint Hazael as king over Syria. {16} "Also you shall anoint Jehu the son of Nimshi as king over Israel. And Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel Meholah you shall anoint as prophet in your place. {17} "It shall be that whoever escapes the sword of Hazael, Jehu will kill; and whoever escapes the sword of Jehu, Elisha will kill. {18} "Yet I have reserved seven thousand in Israel, all whose knees have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

{19} So he departed from there, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he was with the twelfth. Then Elijah passed by him and threw his mantle on him. {20} And he left the oxen and ran after Elijah, and said, "Please let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you."

And he said to him, "Go back again, for what have I done to you?"

{21} So Elisha turned back from him, and took a yoke of oxen and slaughtered them and boiled their flesh, using the oxen's equipment, and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he arose and followed Elijah, and became his servant.

Outer Aim - God showed Elijah that he needed to change his attitude, to go and preach to the people.

What the Story Tells Us - Answer the following questions.

1. Why was Elijah running into the wilderness?
2. Why was she going to kill him?
3. What was special about this food?
4. Why did God ask Elijah what he was doing in the cave?
5. What does Elijah's response show us about Elijah?
6. In whom was Elijah putting his trust and confidence?
7. How did God show that Elijah was being foolish?
8. Why do you think God came to Elijah in the still small voice and not the powerful destructive wind, earthquake, and fire?

9. What do you think that still small voice is?

10. How did God comfort Elijah by using the still small voice?

Inner Aim - The Gospel message is the still small voice that has the power to save us from our sins.

Your Turn - Read the Fourth Petition (©Sydow Catechism 2000) below and answer the questions.

The Fourth Petition

“Give us this day our daily bread.”

What does this mean?

God gives daily bread without our asking, even to unbelievers, but we pray in this petition that He would teach us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

Why wasn't Elijah's attitude very good when he was praying to God?

Elijah complained and felt sorry for himself. How did God respond to Elijah's complaints?

What does this show us about God?

Do we need to be concerned about our physical needs? What is the most important thing in life?

God's way of Salvation in the Gospel message seems foolish to so many people. What do they fail to realize about this Gospel message?

What God's Word Tells Us - Answer the following questions.

1. Read Romans 1:16. *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.”* Why does this passage fit our Bible story today?
2. Read I Corinthians 1:18-21. *“For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: ‘I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.’ Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.”* In our story today, what would the world think about God coming in the still small voice?

3. According to that passage why has God chosen to use the still small voice to save people?
4. What is the only way to Salvation which the world thinks is foolishness but is really the wisdom of God?

Passages

2 Timothy 2:19 - "The Lord knows those who are His,"

Deuteronomy 31:6 "Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the LORD your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you."

Romans 1:16 - For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

Hymn - TLH #292 v. 1, 2, 8, 9

Lord Jesus Christ, with us abide,
For round us falls the eventide;
Nor let Thy Word, that heav'nly light,
For us be ever veiled in night.

A trusty weapon is Thy Word,
Thy Church's buckler, shield and sword.
Oh, let us in its power confide
That we may seek no other guide!

In these last days of sore distress
Grant us, dear Lord, true steadfastness
That pure we keep, till life is spent,
Thy holy Word and Sacrament.

Oh, grant that in Thy holy Word
We here may live and die, dear Lord;
And when our journey endeth here,
Receive us into glory there.

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank You for giving us Your still small voice, the Gospel message which is the power of salvation for all who believe it. Let us trust in Your ways for they are good and perfect. Thank You for making Your plan of salvation complete for us by sending Jesus to die on the cross to take away all our sins. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.