

WHISPER

Elijah

Week 2

NOTES

WARM-UP

- How do you perform under pressure?
- What do you do to relax your mind?
- What's the first thing you do when you encounter a problem?

WORD

⁹ There he came to a cave and lodged in it. And behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and he said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁰ He said, "I have been very jealous for the LORD, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away." ¹¹ And he said, "Go out and stand on the mount before the LORD." And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore the mountains and broke in pieces the rocks 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 the sound of a low whisper. ¹³ And when Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. And behold, there came a voice to him and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁴ He said, "I have been very jealous for the LORD, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away." ¹⁵ And the LORD said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus. And when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael to be king over Syria. ¹⁶ And Jehu the son of Nimshi you shall anoint to be king over Israel, and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah you shall anoint to be prophet in your place. ¹⁷ And the one who escapes from the sword of Hazael shall Jehu put to death, and the one who escapes from the sword of Jehu shall Elisha put to death. ¹⁸ Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him." **1 Kings 19:9-18**

Have you ever been overwhelmed and desperate? Fear paralyzes you as you face problems and threats. This was Elijah's condition in our Scripture today as he was being persecuted by the evil queen Jezebel. This was after winning a great challenge against her prophets, who worshipped a false god, with awesome and miraculous demonstrations of power from God. Picture this, after a victorious feat, Elijah is now on the run, feeling all alone. But God didn't seem to be demonstrating His "awesome power" to resolve Elijah's situation. Instead, God spoke to this scared and lonely prophet in a still, small voice. Today, we're going to look at the significance of God's appearance to Elijah in a still, small voice.

1**To answer his greatest need**

“¹¹ And he said, “Go out and stand on the mount before the LORD.” And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore the mountains and broke in pieces the rocks 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 the sound of a low whisper. ¹³ And when Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. And behold, there came a voice to him and said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” 1 KINGS 19:11-13

At this point, Elijah was depressed and desperate, but what Elijah needed at that moment was not power, strength of wind, earthquake, or fire. What he needed was the calming reassurance of *God’s presence*. It can be so easy to give in to fear as you think about how you have no control over the threats that you’re facing and you feel that the situation is going to *take over you* instead. But we remember that God is in control; and in every trial and challenge, the best solution is God’s presence. How has God’s presence reassured you in the midst of trials?

2**To reveal the tender nature of God**

“¹⁰ He said, “I have been very jealous for the LORD, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away.” ¹¹ And he said, “Go out and stand on the mount before the LORD.” 1 KINGS 19:10-11

His still, small voice shows the way God deals with people – with grace and loving kindness. When we think about it, verse 10-11 actually revealed Elijah’s lack of faith. But God didn’t condemn him. Instead, God ministered to Elijah – God always reaches out to us first. God knows what we need, and He deals patiently with

us, even when we don't show the same courtesy to God or to others. Are you reaching into His hand?

3

To foreshadow the things to come

¹¹And he said, "Go out and stand on the mount before the LORD." And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore the mountains and broke in pieces the rocks 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. ¹²And after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire the sound of a low whisper."
1 KINGS 19:11-12

In the Book of Acts, the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples on the day of the Pentecost. They began to speak in other tongues as the Holy Spirit enabled them. 1 Corinthians 14:4 says that, "the one who speaks in tongues builds up himself..." Speaking in tongues is a way to be strengthened. In life, we don't always experience highs. There are times when, like Elijah, we are lodged in a cave of desperation, worry, and turmoil. But that is also an opportunity to come closer to God, for Him to whisper to us and strengthen us. As we wait upon the Lord, He will surely renew our strength.

APPLICATION

- What is your greatest need right now? Pray for each other.
- What are some practical steps you can take to draw closer to God so that you can hear His whisper?
- Do you practice speaking in tongues? Why or why not?
- How significant is God's still, small voice in our life?

PRAYER

- Thank God for His presence in your life. Thank Him for sustaining you and strengthening you throughout the week.
- Pray to draw close to God daily. And pray for ears to hear what He says, and a heart to obey what He tells us.
- Pray for discernment to distinguish His voice in this loud and distracting world. Pray for faith to believe what He says to us.



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