

Elijah - Help in Our Unbelief 1 Kings 19:1-15

In a time of deep depression and disbelief, Elijah runs to Mt. Horeb and honestly engages with God's goodness. In a life so tangled with unmet expectations, it is easy for us to forget God's goodness yet through His grace we can be comforted by his love and the community around us.

Ask the Question: *What are you doing here?*

Since this question is so universal what brings us to ask it?

- For the majority it's: This did not meet my expectations
- For believers: Our trust in God is threatened by perceived inconsistencies

When we are faced with unmet expectation and inconsistencies we tend to find our self frustrated...

But we can also become anxious and sometimes spiraling down in a depression

The hardest part for me is that I'm a Christian and asking this question...

- Are we not supposed to be joyful?
- Are we not supposed to be free from fear?
- Are we not promised blessings and provisions?
- YES...but I believe it is because we fail to remember God's goodness
 - We can be joyful, set free from our fears, and receive God's blessings yet we just chalk it up to our own achievements
- Don't feel bad...because you are not alone

That is why I'm so thankful for this Story of Elijah

Elijah Crash Course

"Like a meteor, he flashed across the inky blackness of Israel's spiritual night." - J. Oswald Sanders

- Explodes on the Scene from a backwater community
- Confronts the King and states that there will be no more rain
- Put through boot camp by the brook
- Left the brook, went to the center of Baal worship and raised a widows son from the grave
- Approached the king 3 years later and said that rain will come when I say so
- Challenged 450 prophets of Baal on mount Carmel, butchered a bull BY HIMSELF
- Called on the NAME OF THE LORD and FIRE was sent down from heaven.
 - ALL SO THAT YOU WOULD KNOW THAT THE LORD IS GOD!
- With repentant men he kills the prophets of Baal
- Goes to the top of the mountain Carmel and falls on his face 7 times begging God to finally send the rain and he does.
- He runs to Jezreel to issue in the revival
- Yet words gets out to Jezebell, the evil queen, of what Elijah has done and sends a death threat to Elijah
- Elijah fears his death, Runs to Beersheba [90 miles away], goes into the wilderness alone.

Why? I believe that Elijah in a time inconsistent with his knowledge of God needed help. He believed but he needed help in his belief

The point: We believe but we need help in our belief.

Elijah was a man of God

- name means “the LORD is God”

He got to see incredible things happen in a wicked world

- Ahab- Elijah brought the Lords good into a time of bad
- Power to withhold rain, Ravens, Raising children from the dead, Fire from heaven

Elijah’s belief in God went as far as his immediate experience.

- He forgot about God when life turned against him

Not only does the laps in belief cause Elijah to run away, he also isolates himself, and comes to the point of a depression that he wishes to die.

- You see Elijah believed in God...but he needed help

Many of you have probably experienced this...I have.

- You are not alone in wrestling with God’s goodness
- You don't have to have it all together

You see when we have belief-struggles it has become a taboo in the evangelical world.

- We just do not know how to handle people who are struggling with their faith or even who are struggling in life.
- Our response is sometimes a to do list... “pray, read your bible, stop sinning”
 - We are really good at...Eph 4:15 “Speak the truth”
 - We are not so good at... Eph 4:15...”in Love” or Romans 12:15 “Weep with those who weep”
- It takes an intimate relationship, a comforter for his soul that can help.
- Elijah finds exactly that when he himself is isolated and alone at Mt. Horeb. The perfect place for him to meet God.

Read: 1 Kings 19:9-18

Elijah is met by the comfort of God

- When we are in need we need comfort.
- Look to how God responds to Elijah’s pity party?
- He whispers to Him...have you ever had that? Something so tender, so soft to your soul that it just breaks you apart?

God responds in the way that brings healing

God didn't respond harshly towards Elijah, he didn't take him by the ear and scold him. You see he knew what he had done.

God responds differently

In our moments of unbelief let us be a people who respond like God would.

- He is patient with Elijah
- He reminds Elijah of his power
- He has an intimate conversation with him
- He gives him purpose and a people

I love Elijah for I can relate with this part of him very easily.

- Even in his lowest of lows where does he run too... Mt. Horeb also known as Mt Sinai, the Holy Mountain of God.
- He believes but he needs help in his unbelief and he seeks the help of the only one who can.

Jesus had a similar experience with a man struggling in his belief

Mark 9:21-27

- Confronted by a crowd who are in search for a healer
- Disciples couldn't do it.
- Father asks Jesus...”If you can...have compassion on us”

Jesus, the Son of God, fully God and Man came into this world to bring restoration to the broken.

- Beautiful imagery of **extending the hand** and giving new life
 - Jesus with his hands lifts up and reunites with his father
 - God with his hand upon Elijah lifts his spirits and gives him a purpose
 - Jesus extends his hand to us in this world who are broken and brings them back to a loving relationship with the Father

Jesus came to minister and to be that comforter

God has given us all that we need for life and godliness. We just need help believing it.

- How: Run to God

We need to be a people who are ok with being vulnerable, even in the things that we should have tied up in a bow.

- How: Open up to your brothers and sisters

Response: The life of a believer is one of responses to who God is and what He has done. I would encourage you to respond in honesty and vulnerability to God and to others.

- Life in this world is a challenge
- IF you are not a believer in Jesus Christ, my prayer for you is that the Spirit would open your mind and heart to his calling. If you are having any questions concerning the faith please come talk to me
- If you are a believer I call you to be open and honest with your God and with your brothers and sisters. Vulnerability produces vulnerability.
- Take a moment and be honest before the Lord. He wants to hear from you. If you need to be honest with a friend, a loved one...do so.
- We are a people of belief who struggle with belief. Let us confess that today and cling closely to the grace of God that meets us where we are.