

Monday, 25 June 2018 1 Kings 19:1-3

Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So may the gods do to me and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by this time tomorrow." Then he was afraid, and he arose and ran for his life and came to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there.

Even Elijah, the man of God who was taken up into Heaven by horses and chariots of fire, (2 Kings 2:11) had his moments of doubt. Who wouldn't? She was a woman of enormous evil, powerful and vengeful.

But, as we shall see, the Spirit of the Living God is present and able to carry us through those moments of doubt.

Tuesday, 26 June 2018 1 Kings 19:4-8

But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he asked that he might die, saying, "It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my fathers." And he lay down and slept under a broom tree. And behold, an angel touched him and said to him, "Arise and eat." And he looked, and behold, there was at his head a cake baked on hot stones and a jar of water. And he ate and drank and lay down again. And the angel of the LORD came a second time again and touched him and said, "Arise and eat, for the journey is too great for you." And he arose and ate and drank, and went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb, the mount of God.

Have I ever gotten to the point where I cried out to the LORD, "I'm done, Lord, take me out of this ministry? I can not continue". Yes! But those low points are the one where I need to turn to the LORD, God, the Almighty. Is this an example of where I need to allow the Fear of the LORD to become dominant in my life?

Elijah received bread and water from the hand of the LORD and traveled for forty days and nights. Is not this symbolic of the bread of life and the living water that I receive when I turn all over to the LORD and can accomplish even more than I can ask or imagine?

Wednesday, 27 June 2018 1 Kings 19:9-15

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?" 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." 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. And after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire the sound of a low whisper. 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?" 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." 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.

Woe is me; I'm the only one who hears You and is following in Your footsteps. Everyone else has deserted You for false gods, killed Your prophets and desecrated Your alters.

The LORD's response is to come and stand before Him. where the LORD queries him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" Elijah goes but continues to snivel. However the LORD's response is fascinating, He doesn't reason or debate with Elijah, He sends him off on a challenging and possibly dangerous task.

No, quit your whining, only get busy with My work that I have called you to. Isn't this the message to me? Whenever I'm discouraged, roll up my shirtsleeves and get to Kingdom work, demonstrating the Fear of the LORD as the foundation of my life.

Thursday, 28 June 2018 2 Kings 1:2-8

Now Ahaziah fell through the lattice in his upper chamber in Samaria, and lay sick; so he sent messengers, telling them, "Go, inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron, whether I shall recover from this sickness." But the angel of the LORD said to Elijah the Tishbite, "Arise, go up to meet the messengers of the king of Samaria, and say to them, 'Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are going to inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron? Now therefore thus says the LORD, You shall not come down from the bed to which you have gone up, but you shall surely die.'" So Elijah went. The messengers returned to the king, and he said to them, "Why have you returned?" And they said to him, "There came a man to meet us, and said to us, 'Go back to the king who sent you, and say to him, Thus says the LORD, Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are sending to inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron? Therefore you shall not come down from the bed to which you have gone up, but you shall surely die.'" He said to them, "What kind of man was he who came to meet you and told you these things?" They answered him, "He wore a garment of hair, with a belt of leather about his waist." And he said, "It is Elijah the Tishbite."

Everything about Elijah the Tishbite demonstrated who he was and to whom he was obedient. Not just his clothing, that was a confirming stamp that the troubler of Israel was still a force to be reckoned with. It was his message; a message that apostate Israel was always called to have no other gods before the Lord, God, the Almighty.

Is it not the same call that is issued to the apostate Christian church in the US today? How many other gods steal our joy in the LORD? Everything from the length of the LORD's Day sermon that might spoil the Sunday roast to a midweek TV show that is more important than joining brothers and sisters in an hour of prayer. And countless distractions in between.

Friday, 29 June 2018 2 Kings 1:9-15

Then the king sent to him a captain of fifty men with his fifty. He went up to Elijah, who was sitting on the top of a hill, and said to him, "O man of God, the king says, 'Come down.'" But Elijah answered the captain of fifty, "If I am a man of God, let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty." Then fire came down from heaven and consumed him and his fifty. Again the king sent to him another captain of fifty men with his fifty. And he answered and said to him, "O man of God, this is the king's order, 'Come down quickly!'" But Elijah answered them, "If I am a man of God, let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your

fifty." Then the fire of God came down from heaven and consumed him and his fifty. Again the king sent the captain of a third fifty with his fifty. And the third captain of fifty went up and came and fell on his knees before Elijah and entreated him, "O man of God, please let my life, and the life of these fifty servants of yours, be precious in your sight. Behold, fire came down from heaven and consumed the two former captains of fifty men with their fifties, but now let my life be precious in your sight." Then the angel of the LORD said to Elijah, "Go down with him; do not be afraid of him." So he arose and went down with him to the king

The progression is so interesting. 1-ordered summons and a demonstration of the power of the LORD, 2-repeated ordered summons and a repeated demonstration, 3-an approach in humility and acknowledgement that Elijah is a servant of the LORD resulting in a messenger of the LORD directing Elijah to respond to the request.

The lesson to me is that I must always remember that I am called to be an Ambassador of the Kingdom of God and that my direction must come from there. Yes, I must obey those whom the LORD has placed in authority but only to the extent that they are in accord with the word of God.

Saturday, 30 June 2018 2 Kings 4:1-7

Now the wife of one of the sons of the prophets cried to Elisha, "Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that your servant feared the LORD, but the creditor has come to take my two children to be his slaves." And Elisha said to her, "What shall I do for you? Tell me; what have you in the house?" And she said, "Your servant has nothing in the house except a jar of oil." Then he said, "Go outside, borrow vessels from all your neighbors, empty vessels and not too few. Then go in and shut the door behind yourself and your sons and pour into all these vessels. And when one is full, set it aside." So she went from him and shut the door behind herself and her sons. And as she poured they brought the vessels to her. When the vessels were full, she said to her son, "Bring me another vessel." And he said to her, "There is not another." Then the oil stopped flowing. She came and told the man of God, and he said, "Go, sell the oil and pay your debts, and you and your sons can live on the rest."

Another interesting vignette of life in the Kingdom of God. The most important clue is in the phrase, "your servant feared the LORD." That phrase set the stage for all the rest of the story as Elisha applies the power of the LORD, God, the Almighty to the plight of the family. The means were not important, but it was appropriate and easily implemented by the widow and her children.

The widow obeyed immediately. Do I? Am I willing to accept a simple solution or do I seek for a more elaborate and showy demonstration of my faith?

Lord's Day, 1 July 2018 Psalm 119:29

Put false ways far from me and graciously teach me Your law!

Lord, those false ways have the comfortable feel of an old pair of slippers; they fit the fallen nature within me and give the appearance of being molded to the character of the old man. But You teach me that this is entirely backward, they mold the characteristics; it is they who bring grief into my life.

Mold me and shape me, Lord, through Your ways; through Your Grace and Mercy; through Your Holy Spirit working in me to apply Your ways to my heart and soul. Teach me Your laws; they bring life and joy.

VOICES TOGETHER

Daily Meditations from the Scriptures



, 2018

Prayer of the week, based on Paul's prayer in: 1 Timothy 2:1-6

I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men—the testimony given in its proper time. . . .

Brothers,

We are called in these difficult times to be beacons of light, voices of reason; the blessed peacemakers who are called the Sons of God.

We are called to be the prayer warriors who pray unceasingly for those in authority, whether POTUS, SCOTUS or dog catcher.

We are called to be men who live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and honesty; ones whose every word and action brings glory and honor to the Name of Jesus.

It is the LORD, God, the Almighty's will for His people that we serve to bring all men to a saving knowledge of the truth. It is His will that we lead people to know "You, the only true God and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."

May we be faithful and obedient servants. Amen

To Fear or not to Fear, that is the question.

The Fear of the Lord, an expression that occurs many times in Scripture, 142 in the ESV in various forms, is not well understood in the Church today. For many, the phrase represents a weak and flabby description of an overly saccharine spiritual being of some sort. It certainly does not include the concept of the LORD, God the Almighty who spoke all things into being and who controls all things.

Join with me in examining the Fear of the LORD and seeking an understanding of life in the Kingdom of Heaven in the here and now as guided by that Fear.

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