TRUE "Faith"

1 Kings 17:1-24
Jas. 5:15-16

Intro: A.-Source Of Message:
1-Dreaming in car Feb. 28
2-Awoke with a message from God
3-Didn't have message for Sunday, but for 6 weeks later

B.-Appropriateness Of Message:
1-In connection with Baptismal Services
2-In connection with Y. D. selection
3-See experience of Elijah---man of like passions
---man of faith
— TisMbite = "The Converter". A Revivalist

I.-FAITH IS CENTERED IN GOD (17:1)

A.-Insufficient Substances:
1-Words of men— Feeble promises
2-Experience; even when good
3-Word of God---Important — IMPERATIVE for true believer
---But we must see the God of the Word as our Surety---Heb. 6:17-18 – Quote.

B.-True Center Of Faith:
1-Confidence was in God
2-In spite of circumstances
3-Even to small details
4-Neither DEW nor RAIN for 3½ years — Why? — De. 11:16-17; — De. 28:15 ff.; — 1 Kgs. 8:35-36

II.-FAITH IS TESTED BY GOD (17:2-12)

A.-Separation Is Required:
1-A "lone" stand for God
2-Willing to follow the WORD of God---Lk. 5:4-5 — Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, + Let down your nets for a draught, And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, + have taken nothing: Nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net
3-Provision is always cared for By God when we are obedient — Mt. 6:25,32 Phs. 4:19
4-Where???---THERE, and only THERE — Place of Separation / Place of Trial — Mt. 2:13,15 illus
5-Illus----Some years ago the God of Elijah similarly relieved a poor man, not by a raven, but by a singing bird. The man was sitting early in the morning at his house door; his eyes were red with weeping and his heart cried to heaven---for he was expecting an officer to come and arrest him for a small debt. And whilst sitting thus with his heavy heart, a little bird flew thru the street, fluttering up & down as if in distress, until at length it flew over the man's head into his cottage & perched itself on an empty cupboard. The good man, who little imagined who had sent him the bird, closed the door, caught the bird, placed it in a cage, where it immediately began to sing very sweetly & it seemed as if it were the tune of a favorite hymn, "Fear thou not when darkness reigns;" and as he listened to it, he found it soothe & comfort his mind. Suddenly some one knocked at his door. "Ah, it is the officer," thought the man, & was sore afraid. But no, it was the servant of a respectable lady, who said the neighbors had seen a bird fly into his house, & she wished to know if he had caught it. "O yes," the man answered, "and here it is;" and the bird was carried away. A few minutes later the servant came again. "You have done my mistress a great service," he said; "she sets a high value upon the bird, which had escaped from her. She is much obliged to you & requests that you accept this trifle with her thanks." Thepoor man received it thankfully, & it proved to be NEITHER MORE NOR LESS than the sum he owed! When the officer came, he said, "Here is the amount of the

debt; now leave me in peace, for GOD has sent it me."

B.-Obedience Is Necessary:
1-To the WORD
2-"He went and did..."
3-No answer to questions of "WHY" or "WHEREFORE"
4-God therefore provided---17:6; Phs. 4:19; Mt. 6:11
---Though by unusual methods

Though a "man of like passions" as we are.

C.-Trial Is Sure To Come:
1-"The brook dried up" Job 1:20-22
2-WHAT NOW??????
3-God gives orders---Move from SEPARATION
---Move to CRUCIBLE+++Place of refinement
+++1 Pet 1:7—That the trial of your Faith
4-Not to be satisfied with PAST "sweet water", no matter how good it was THEN + not a RICH one
5-Find a widow ---She's already commanded
---She's poor
---She's There
---She's found-----Gen. 24:27
---She's helpful
---She's asked for FIRSTFRUITS which were ALL she had----ILLUS---Boy with 5 loaves & 2 fishes

* Ravens + Brook
* Later — A POOR Widow

Some would respond + Some would not — Lk. 4: 25-26

"I being in the way, the Lord led me..."

Pr. 3:9 - Honor the Lord with thy substance + with all the first-fruits of all thine increase

III.-FAITH IS VINDICATED BY GOD (17:13-24)

A.-In The Realm Of Food:
1-Give first to God
2-God will make the rest suffice
3-According to the promise of God----17:14; Pr. 3:9
4-"And she went & did..."----FAITH IN ACTION
5-No failure, but FULL SUPPLY
6-Never much in hand, but never any lack!!! — 17:14
7-Victory is found IN CONFLICT---Rom. 8:37

Many can testify to this!

17:15

"MANY DAYS" = Several years.

B.-In TheRealm Of Life Itself:
1-Chastisement here---Heb. 12:11
2-SIN is brought to remembrance; skeleton in her closet
3-Holiness of a man of God in her midst shows up sin
4-Son dies; Woman repents of sin (Jas. 5:16)
5-Prayer of faith is uttered
6-Son is restored to life
7-Confession of faith by Widow---17:24
8—BECAUSE Elijah was faithful THERE

IV.-FAITH IS MANIFESTED BY BELIEVERS:

A.-By Confession:
1-1 Kings 17:24 by widow
2-Rom. 10:9-10

B.-By Baptism:
1-Ethiopian Eunuch---Acts 8:36-38
2-Paul----------Acts 9:17-18
3-Crispus----------Acts 18:8

C.-By Ministry:
1-Paul--Acts 9:19-22
2-Thessalonians---- 1 Thess. 1:5-10

Are you being FAITHFUL in your
(1)—Place of Separation?
(2)—Place of Refinement?

illus — Josh 3:13 Priests w/ wet feet

3-ILLUS ---Priests with FEET WET----Josh. 3:13

4- Eph. 4:12-16 — are You "supplying" as God expects every joint to supply?

Concl:---A.-FAITH:

1-Centered in God
2-Tested by God
3-Vindicated by God
4-Manifested by the believer

B.-FAILURES:

1-Never any failure with God
2-Failure is always with the believer
3-Let us trust God....AND....manifest it in.....

Confession
Baptism
Ministry.

Witnessing
Giving
Serving
Living
Encouraging + Helping
Leading others
Example.

Faith Of Our Fathers
Faith Is The Victory
My Faith Looks Up To Thee

Weatherae 10/25/64

"WHY SHOULD I PRAY?" (Part 2) 1 Kings 18:17-40
Ps. 65:1, 2, 4

INTRO: A.-Common Attitude Toward Prayer:

1-ILLUS--There was once a godless seaman who was in a fishing boat with his companions when a storm came up which threatened to sink the ship. His companions begged him to offer a prayer, but he demurred, saying it was YEARS since he had prayed or entered a church.

But finally upon their insistence, he made this prayer: "O Lord, I have not asked you for anything for 15 years, and if you deliver us out of this storm & bring us safe & sound to land again, I promise I will not bother you again for another 15 years!"

2-Many pray--In distress
--In emergencies
--In rare circumstances

3-Are we among THEM?

4-Why should I pray?

B.-Believer's Attitude Toward Prayer:

1-DUTY----------God commands it
2-DEPENDENCE-------God's method
3-DELIGHT----------Fullness of joy
4-DISTINCTIVE------God hears
5-DELIVERANCE------God answers
6-DEMONSTRATION----God proves
7-ILLUS--"Hot line" between the White House & the Kremlin
--Available for URGENT CRISIS usage
--Tested regularly with the routine so it is serviceable in the urgent times
--SO....PRAYER is the believer's HOT LINE to God ** Available for emergencies
** Kept serviceable thru daily use
8-PROP:--Continue to see WHY I SHOULD PRAY
--Bring my life into harmony with God's truth on prayer

I.-DISTINCTIVE----------GOD HEARS:

A.-Distinctive Character:

1-Normally listed attributes and characteristics of God
--Life
--Love
--Light
--Omnipotence
--Omniscience
--Omnipresence
--Creatorship
--Miracle working, etc.

2-Another seen in Ps. 65:2--"O Thou that hearest prayer, unto thee shall all flesh come"
--Divinely chosen & authenticated term
--God is "IN TUNE" with man via prayer
--This, also, is part of His nature
--GOD HEARS; That is His distinctive character !

3-WHEN does this "hearing character" apply?
--God is immutable
--Mal. 3:6--"I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed."

--Heb. 13:8--"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and for ever."
--God has heard prayer
--God is hearing prayer
--God will hear prayer
--It is GOD'S CHARACTER (which changes not) to hear prayer
--At any time; in any age

4-For whom does this character apply?
--"All flesh"--people of all kinds
** Jews
** Gentiles (Mariners in Jonah 1:14-16)
(Ninevehites in Jonah 3:8-9
** Church
--What about Jn. 9:31--"Now we know that God heareth not sinners:"
--Sinner can always get a hearing with one prayer
--Lk. 18:13--"And the publican standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, GOD BE MERCIFUL TO ME A SINNER."

5-God delights to HEAR

6-How radically different from pagan gods
--Ps. 115:4-7 (IDOLS)
--I Kings 18:25-29 (PAGAN DEITIES)

READ

B.-Distinctive Confidence:

1-God wants us to be people of FAITH

2-Heb. 11:6--"But without faith it is impossible to please God: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is the rewarder of them that diligently seek Him."
--Belief that God IS----------Existence
--Belief that God REWARDS-------Answers those that pray

3-Deliberately seek God in prayer---and there can be a distinct confidence that He hears and answers

4-Ps. 50:15--"And call upon Me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me."

5-John R. Rice--"...there is no faith that does not involve a real confidence in the prayer-hearing and prayer-answering nature of God." (P. 17--PRAYER)

6-When anyone limits God's willingness to answer prayer, we are guilty of UNBELIEF

7-God was never in the past, & never will be in the future, more willing to hear and answer prayer than He is RIGHT NOW

8-It is the distinctive character of God to hear and answer prayer

9-Ps. 34:17--"The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth..."

10-ILLUS --A lifeguard sits all day on the beach watching for persons needing his help. All about him is the noise of hundreds of pleasure-seekers, talking, laughing, shouting--the waves roaring --noises of every type.

"I don't see how you can hear a cry for help above all this din when someone out in the water needs you," remarked a man.

"No matter how great the noise of confusion," replied the lifeguard, "I have never had an occasion when I could not distinguish the cry of distress above all the other sounds."

AND I REFLECTED that it is a lot like that WITH GOD. When a soul cries out for His help, HE NEVER FAILS TO HEAR

11-Do I-------DO WE ----have a distinctive confidence that bids us come to pray?
12-We should, for God hears, and that is a major reason "Why I should pray"

II.-DELIVERANCE----------GOD ANSWERS:

A.-Troubles Are Universal:

1-Being a christian is not an automatic "cure-all"
2-Cares are common to all
- -Job 5:7--"Yet man is born to trouble,as the sparks fly upward."
- -Isa. 38:16--"O Lord, by these (troubles) men live..."

3-Anxieties are widespread
4-Characteristics of the unstable & unsettled; THE SINNER
5-BUT,---many christians are also plagued
6-Not necessary to experience & live with depression

B.-Can The Christian Get Deliverance?:

1-PRAYER---Is asking
- --Is receiving
- --Is fullness of joy
- --Is ALSO the way to deal with troubles
- *-Ps. 34:17--"The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles."

2-Every christian can have a calm, unworried frame of mind; a deep settled peace of heart unknown to the worldling
- -CLEAR CONTRAST
- --Isa. 57:19-21 (READ)
- --Can you boast as David did?
- --Ps. 34:4, 6--"I sought the LORD, and He heard me, and delivered me from all my fears....This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles."
- --Have you been delivered from all your troubles?
- --Are you burdened with a load of care?

3-YOU can have this deliverance!
4-But....HOW ??

C.-Deliverance Through Prayer:

1-Phs. 4:6-7 (READ) Key text
2-
- --No anxiety
- --No anxiety over anything
- --Rather, PRAY ABOUT IT
- --About everything
- --That is God's prescription for disolving doubts and dispelling difficulties
- --WHAT WILL HAPPEN ??
  - ** You give God your prayers, supplications (matters of serious importance to us)
  - ** You give God your thanks for what He has brought into your life

BOORUM & PEASE "NOTEAR" ®

** God gives you "the peace of God which passeth understanding"
** DELIVERANCE is yours
** Ps. 46:1-2--"God is our refuge & strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, tho the earth be removed, & tho the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea;"

2-Alternative to praying
--WORRY
--Motto in the late Dr. Walter Wilson's office: "WHY PRAY WHEN YOU CAN WORRY?"
--Worry ** Is a blighting sin
** Is a besetting sin
** Is the OPPOSITE OF TRUST
--Prov. 3:5-6

3-YET, many christians are guilty of this SIN
--Harried by burdens
--Hounded by fears
--But there is a "way out"-------PRAYER
--ILLUS--Dr. Hysloop, speaking before the British Medical Association, once said: "The best medicine which my practice has discovered is PRAYER. The exercise of prayer in thos who habitually practice it must be regarded as the most adequate and normal of all the pacifiers of the mind and calmers of the nerves.

"As one whose whole life has been concerned with the sufferings of the mind, I would state that of all the hygenic measures to counteract disturbed sleep, depression of spirits, and all the miserable sequels of a distressed mind, I would undoubtedly give the first place to the simple habit of prayer.

"It is of the highest importance, merely from a physical point of view, to teach children to hold daily communion with God. Such a habit does more to quiet the spirit and strengthen the soul to overcome mere incidental emotionalism, than any other therapeutic agency known to me."

4-TEXTS--Old Testament
--Ps. 55:22--"Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and He shall sustain thee: He shall never suffer the righteous to be moved."
--New Testament
--1 Pet. 5:7--"Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you."
--ILLUS--Harold Dixon, one of the three men on a raft who drifted for 34 days a thousand miles in their rubber raft, 8 feet by 4, with no food & no water, speaking of the prayer meetings which they held every night said:

"THERE WAS A COMFORT IN PASSING OUR BURDEN TO SOMEONE BIGGER THAN WE in this empty vastness. Further, the common devotion drew us together, since it seemed we no longer depended upon each other, but could appeal simultaneously to a FOURTH that we three held equally in reverence"

5-Daily deliverance--No guarantee you'll be problem free
--No promise you'll be trial-exempt
--But God will care for you
--And you can have PEACE in the midst of the storms----or the calms
--ILLUS--James Mc Conkey says that one summer when he was ill he spent the summer on the shores of the Great Lakes. Sailing was the only recreation possible. One day when sailing in the midst of the bay, the wind suddenly died out.

His boat was utterly becalmed with not a breath of air astir. The hot rays of the August sun,beat down mercilessly upon his weak body. He had come out with a stiff breeze, and he naturally began to pray for a breeze to take him back. For an hour he prayed, but no breeze came. Then he spied a boat coming toward him. An old fisherman, realizing that Mr. McConkey would be helpless out in the bay with no wind, came out to tow the sailboat to harbor.

McConkey says he learned this lesson. His real need had been for DELIVERANCE, and while God had denied the words of his petition, He provided for his need.

--Do you and I consciously think of the fact that "GOD IS WITH US" to deliver us in all of our daily experiences?
--HOW ??
--By prayer !!

6-Sample from our Lord
--Mt. 6:25-34
--"TAKE NO THOUGHT" = "Do not be anxious about" New ASB
** Mt. 6:25,27, 28, 31, 34
--KEY--6:33
--PEACE AND PROVISION when we look to God for deliverance in our situations

7-Are you burdened?----------PRAY your way out !!

8-Thousands have been cheered in time of trouble by the words written by Joseph Scriven & have been led closer to Christ thereby. Born in Dublin in 1820, he came to Canada at the age of 25. The young lady to whom he was engaged to be married was accidentally drowned on the eve of their wedding day. This led him to consecrate his life and fortune to the service of Christ, and gives special insight into the words:

"What a friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear.
What a privilege to carry,
EVERYTHING to God in prayer.

O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
EVERYTHING to God in prayer.

9-Prayer leads to DELIVERANCE--Phs. 4:6-7--"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

10-ILLUS--During the time when China was overrun with bandits---a missionary and clerk found it necessary to go to the nearest town to withdraw money for their work from the local bank. After completing their business, they proceeded on the long journey to their home. Darkness came and they camped on top of a little hill for the night. After praying they lay down to rest, putting the box of money between them. When they awakened in the morning they were thankful to God for His protection during the long night and rejoiced that they had not been robbed.

Some months later a big Brigand Chief was brought to their hospital for treatment. "A little while ago you went to the city & brought back a lot of money," said the chief. "You camped at night on top of a little hill," he continued.

The amazed missionary answered that this was true, & the Chief continued. "You had soldiers with you." "We had no soldiers with us. We were quite alone," was the missionary's reply.

"Oh, but you did have soldiers with you," answered the Chief. He related to them that he & others that were with him had decided to attack the missionaries, but when they saw the soldiers they feared for their lives. He was very emphatic that what he said was true, & went on to say that they had counted the soldiers, & that there were twenty-seven.

The missionary went eventually to England, & there told the story of God's protecting hand. A man in the rear of the meeting hall called out, "Can you tell me the date this happened?"

That was easy to do, for the event was one never to be forgotten. "I thought so," said the man. "That night a group was gathered in our church to pray especially for the missionaries in china." Then, looking in his diary, he added:"THERE WERE JUST 27 OF US PRAYING."

11-God does deliver thru prayer

12-Prayerlessness is a robber of God's appointed deliverance, protection and peace

CONCLUSION:

A.-Why Should I Pray?:

1-God commands it----------DUTY
2-God's method of my getting-------DEPENDENCE
3-Fullness of joy----------DELIGHT
4-DISTINCTIVE----------God hears prayer
5-DELIVERANCE----------God answers prayer
6-If that doesn't convince us,,,,,,,,,,,WHAT WILL?
7-Peter Dyneka--"No prayer; no power.
Little prayer; little power.
Much prayer; much power."

B.-Power Through Prayer:

1-Let us be praying--God hears
--God answers
--God meets needs
--God meets us
--POWER with God & POWER with men
--May God give us the BURDEN TO PRAY

2-Prayer is like the BREATH of the christian:
--Exhaling is expression
--Inhaling is receiving
3-May God help us to see.....
..."WHY I SHOULD PRAY"

Westbrae--7/27/69-- I Need Thee Every Hour — 100
Higher Ground — 345
What A Friend — 384

IT IS ENOUGH! — God's Help For The Discouraged

1 Kings 19:1–18

A confrontation on which there could be no compromise!

INTRO:

A.- Background:
1- Controversy on Mt. Carmel — 850 false prophets / All Israel challenged.
2- Confirmations That God Rules
- The fire fell = JUDGMENT SEEN as God shows His power.
- The prophets of Baal died
- The rain came breaking 3 yrs. drought
3- VICTORY DAY
= "The hand of the LORD was on Elijah" 18:46
= Time of DANGER after a great victory — TIRED OUT

B.- Aftermath:
1- Ahab reports in to Jezebell (19:1)
2- Jezebel reacts (19:2)
- Messenger sent
- Threats made — "Get out of town TODAY or you will be dead TOMORROW!"
- Appeal to "gods"
- Time given for Elijah to run
3- Elijah responds (19:3,4)
- Arose (w/o thought or consultation)
- Ran for his life
- "BLUE MONDAY" follows
- Victory Day
- "IT IS ENOUGH!" (19:4)

C.- This Message:
1- Learn about the problems of discouragement + God's tools for rehabilitation
2- PROP — In stress times we often react instinctively instead of spiritually — but God meets us in our need.
3- INT
- What are the Dangers We Face?
- What are the Means for "Coming Back"?
- Let's Look at those Dangers

I. - THE DANGERS OF DISCOURAGEMENT:

A. - Danger Of Looking At Circumstances - 19:3

"Jezebel is after me" — So what? She's an ungodly woman

B. - Danger Of Praying Foolishly - 19:4

"Take away my life" — If he wanted to die then why run from Jezebel?

PITY PARTY

C. - Danger Of Neglecting Physical + Emotional Needs

Ran — w/o Food + Water

- Nourishment
- Rest
- Rejuvenation time spiritually
- Renewal

19:5-7

D. - Danger Of Feeling Indispensible - 19:9-18

"WHAT DOEST THOU HERE?"

"I have been very jealous... I, even I only, am left"

PITY PARTY

God — You can't run your program w/o ME!... and I am in danger.

II. - THE MEANS FOR REHABILITATION:

A. - Solitude - 19:4

Get away ALONE

- Carmel Mountains
- Seashore
- Cabin, etc.

Moved toward Horeb where God had met Moses.

B. - Prayer - 19:4

Must need to take time w/ us — Gen. 2:18

May not begin on a TOP level spiritually, but pour out heart to God — DO PRAY

P.6 of Filling

C. - Rest + Sleep - 19:5

Strength comes out of having experienced weakness 2 Cor. 12

- Regularly / Enough
- Even if in a HOSPITAL / PCR in Houston
- Illness — 70 yrs. in Babylonian Captivity — rest for land

Ps. 23:2

P.6 of Filling

D. - Daily Bread - 19:5-7

"Annie + eat"

Fresh bread baking on the coals

- You are what you EAT
- NUTRITION - Breakfast
- Enough, but not gluttonous
- Watch "foods"
- Grocer + Butcher / OR Doctor

E. - God Speaks - 19:9-18

- Used to this from his past
- FRESH Word is needed — DAILY — Need it EVERY DAY!
- Written / Spoken / Living Word — "In His SON"

"THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH"

Heb. 1:1-2

"What doest thou HERE?"

"Go forth and STAND!"

How God speaks —

- Not in the wind
- Not in the earthquake
- Not in the fire
- But in STILL SMALL VOICE

God's way — The Unexpected
NOT in the spectacular

Elijah HEARD God as God spoke
"What doest thou here?" — TWICE 19:9 19:13
Inadequate answer — "I" — Rom. 7 FLESH / Rom. 8 SPIRIT

F. In Daily Duties: 19:15-17 BIG TASKS / LITTLE TASKS
"Glory" of the DAILY GRIND
Retrace steps northward — Back to place God had sent him to serve.
Damascus — Hazael, King of Syria
Jehu, King of Israel
Elisha as Prophet
God's method is a MAN!
WORK — ECCLES 9:10 - "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it w/ all thy might..."

G. In Encouraging Words: 19:18
In God's NAME — Jehovah Sabaoth — 19:14
Elijah serves — Elijah STANDS
In God's PERSON — "I"
God replies - God SPEAKS
Elijah had his statistics wrong (19:10,14)
BUT, one wonders why those others had their mouths closed.
7000 — Remember, these are OTHERS in God's remnant who are also FAITHFUL — 1 Cor. 4:1 — God sees them + knows them

Concl A. Alternatives to DISCOURAGEMENT:
1 — Burn Out — David
2 — Rust Out — Branerd
3 — Living Out, by the power of the H — Many today
B. Appeal:
1 — Decision needed — NOT allow the Dangers of Discouragement.
2 — Appropriate means for rehabilitation — DECIDE NOW!

Great usefulness AHEAD for those who have failed or contemplated suicide.

③ Like Elijah, we'll "Go On"
- 40 days - 19:8
- 40 months
- 40 years
- As long as God gives strength + grace
- Until we also are "taken home" to heaven (2 Kings 2:11)

#515 Count Your Blessings

#372 Its Just Like His Great Love

#12 God Will Take Care Of You

129 Hiding In Thee

#278 A Shelter In The Time Of Storm

4/13

369 All The Way My Savior Leads Me

Mt. Hope Bible Ch - Aug. 1979
Lower Falls Bapt. Ch. - 9/10/79
Mt. Tabor Baptist Ch. 6/8/80
Community Bapt. Ch., Paris, Ill - 6/29/80
Pettus Baptist Ch. WV. - 4/12/81
Gum Springs Bapt. Ch, WV - 4/26/81

Power of God comes to its full fruition when we are WEAK!
- 2 Cor. 12:9-10
- M. Luther - "The greatest affliction would be to have no affliction, for sorrow + tribulation drive us to God. Afflictions like this are highly beneficial to us!"

TABLE TALK

Elijah – 1 Kings 19

Jim Efaw → 11/16/85

I. – Be Thankful for a Loving & Compassionate God

A – Food
B – Drink
C – Rest
D. – Didn't quit loving him in his depression.
E. – Perfect in Christ even when out of the will of God

II. – Be Alert to God's Dealings

A – Q – 19:10 – "What doest thou here?"
B – God finds Elijah where he is!
C – A – 19:10 "I have been very jealous ... "

III. – Be Ready To Heed God's Instructions

A. – Need to know God's Truth
B. – Need to apply God's Truth to ourselves
C. –

Concl

Lessons
1 – God is still in control of it all
2 – Don't quit – Still more work to do.
3 – You are not alone, no matter how you feel at a given moment.

ACADEMIC OFFICES

- Dean of Educat
- Registrar

Problem Elements

1 Kings 18 & 19

SAPPED — 18:46
SCARED — 19:3
SOLITUDE — 19:3
SELF-PITY — 19:4
SLEEP (Excessive) — 19:5,6
STUFFED (Excessive) — 19:5,6,7

Avoidance of Reality

Solution Elements

(1) Place 19:8-9 — Mt. Horeb — Back to ROOTS of God's revelation to Israel

(2) Presence 19:11-12
- God was in all these, but does not speak from them all.
- No need for another dramatic event, but need of God's presence

(3) People 19:9,13-14
- Mantle is symbol of prophetic office
- Same song, 2nd verse instead of repentance
- If you don't repent + confess as you ought, then God can + will use others
- Elijah is shelved

"The Call Of God" 1 Kings 19:19-21; Acts 16:6-11; 13:1-5

Intro: A.-Principles:
1-God calls the BUSY---------"AS THEN, SO NOW" Gen. 24:27
2-God calls those whose hearts are open
3-God's method is person to person
--evangelism
--teaching
--challenging to service

B. Major Decisions of life:
1 Whom to trust
2 Whom to serve
3 Life work
4-Where to study
5 Whom to marry
6-Where to live

I.-GENERAL CALL OF GOD TO SERVICE------1 Kings 19:19-21:

A.-Exposition Of The Text:
1-Elisha--wealthy parents
--working hard
--supervising & working too
2-Mantle--Cast by Elijah the Prophet
--lit on Elisha
--"Found Elisha"--Led of God to this young man
--Mantle--symbol of the power of the Spirit & of the office of a Prophet
3-Response--Left plowing
--Desires leave of Elijah to bid family goodbye
--Intention to FOLLOW is real
4-Elijah's Words--"Go back again"
--Burden is on YOU if you claim your heart is truly touched
--"What have I done to thee?"
--True call is from the Spirit; not of man
--Refusal to interfere with God's leading
5-Elisha's Preparation--Went to home & told family
--No word of thir reaction; UNIMPORTANT since the call was from GOD
--Slew yoke of oxen--feast of dedication
--BURNED BRIDGES BEHIND
--2 Cor. 5:14-16
--Arose--Put FEET to intention
--Ministered--apprenticeship
--On the job training
--Ready when God took Elijah

C. Dealing now w/ a MISSIONARY Emphasis. Not only area of will of G, but an important one

Bill Kinzie left Ceramic Engineering thru IVCF + Chaplain's testimony that coincided w/ God's leading for him

B.-Foundations To The Call:
1-Not---feelings
--sentiment These are ephemeral
--emotions
2-But---Condition of the heathen — LOST
---Command of Christ — GO
---Common sense of Reason to go & serve where the need is the greatest
3-CALL TO PRAYER as to what God wants of YOU — ENDURE HARDNESS

C.-Motive Of Service: — Terror of the Lord
1-Love of Christ for the WORLD
2-Love of ME for Christ
3-THEREFORE---Christ loves the world thru me
4-ELLUS---Eva Swift from Scofield Church to India.

6-Jn. 6:38; 20:21; 7:17; 2 Cor. 5:15

II.-SPECIFIC CALL OF GOD TO SERVICE------Acts 16:6-11:

A.-Two-Fold Vision:

1-These were ACTIVE christians

2-HEAVENLY VISION (Acts 26:19)

--Message from Godto Paul

--God's will manifested

--Now a VERSE, not a VOICE

Illus- Scofield about Central America or His VOICE thru His VERSE

3-EARTHLY VISION (Acts 16:9)

--Need of Europeans for Christ

--New field seen for the 1st time

--Human need manifested

--Call is apart from the People's good points of culture, language, arts, industry, etc.

--NEED is in terms of the GOSPEL

1 Bible 2 TT's leading 3 circumstances 4 Willing heart 5 Good counsel

Illus - How Carl Rutledge got to Nic.

B.-Reactions:

1-"Immediately"--obedient

--no time lapse

6 Keep Settled

2-"We endeavored to GO"--willing

--Making an effort

3-"Assuredly gathering..."---language of a logical conclusion

---Not just emotions or glamor

---Not just spur of the moment

---OPPORTUNITY is not the last word in the missionary scene, but OBEDIENCE

*** Space Explorers - ready to hazard life.

4-Norm--Illus of Military service

--Norm is to GO

--Only HONORABLE exempts are those who can serve BETTER here at home God directs this, not us! WARNER RETTER

5-Specific PLACE--comes after a yielding to a general call

--NEED & NEED KNOWN constitute a call--to PRAYER and heart searching. Don't go until God thrusts you forth as a missionary & don't go unless God thrusts you forth.

6-ILLUS How Dean + Collista Lewis were called.

C.-Statistics:

1-Missionaries---92% from Xn. homes

---59% saved before age 13

2-Spread of laborers--95% in USA

--5% in rest of world

3-Sex of missionaries--Would we be startled if we picked up the evening paper & read this glaring headline: "LONGSHOREMEN'S UNION SELECTS WOMAN PRESIDENT," with an account following, explaining that in view of the fact that the majority of the longshoremen were now women, it was about time they had a woman as president. This is RIDICULOUS as it is absurd. The tough job of loading & unloading ships is certainly a man's job. At least we are going to be awfully hard pressed before we find women leading the way in this profession. By contrast we point to another tough job, the world work of missions. We're startled to find that 18 women to each man are applying for missionary work in foreign fields. WOMEN are doing the men's job out on the tough pioneer fields of the world.

What will it be? —— "Here am I Lord..... SEND MY SISTER?"

III.-COMMISSION OF GOD TO SERVE-------Acts 13:1-5:

Not all should go, but all should be willing

A.-Spirit Sends (13:1-2, 4):
- 1-Choice is from many fine & qualified workers (13:1)
- 2-These were ACTIVE for God(13:2)
- 3-Spirit touches--by SEPARATION
  - --Unto ME---God — First
  - --Specific persons involved
  - --Unto WORK — Second
  - --Its a CALLING
- 4-Sent forth; not just called to sit!!!!!!!!(13:4)

B.-Church Sends (13:3):
- 1-Involves the PEOPLE of the church
- 2-Requires something of the PEOPLE too
- 3-Ordination--Official recognition of God's call
  - --Identification of candidates to do the job
  - --Identification of the church with the candidates
  - --Only organism known in Scripture for the work of evangelization of the world is the Church
- 4-Involves----------Prayer
  - Support
  - Cooperation

C.-Ministry--THE WORD--13:5

CONCLUSION:--A.-General Call
- 1-To God
- 2-To Serve

B.-Specific Call:
- 1-Place of Service
- 2-Demands IMMEDIATE response

Unfolds as we DO the will of God as we know it.

For preparation

For actual ministry

C.-Commission----Joint enterprise---Spirit
- Church
- Candidates
- Mission

IN TO THE RV

D.-Prospect---Acts. 14:26-28

Invitation

(1) Salvation

(2) Decisions for Special Service
- a-Those already committed in own mind
- b-Those to whom the Lord has spoken.

(3) Parents

(4) Others who have a "willing heart"