

“We Need Some Elijah’s Today”

1 Kings 17,18,19

Sunday, November 12, 2023

Introduction: Winston Churchill once said, “Those who fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it.” He said that in a speech in 1948 to the British House of Commons. It is now 2023, 75 years later, and that statement is as true today as it was then. It is true for nations, and it is true for individuals.

If you are using the two-year Bible reading plan and are on schedule, you will finish the book of 2 Kings today. The books 1&2 Kings tells the story of how God blessed Israel above all nations. But it also tells the story of Israel’s decline and destruction.

- After entering the Promised Land, the Hebrew people experienced God’s blessings, but they ignored God’s words.
- In Israel’s darkest hour spiritually, out of nowhere, the prophet Elijah stepped onto earth’s stage.

T.S. In our day, we need some Elijah’s, and the exciting thing is that we can be one of them if we want to and commit to. Yes, but how?

1. We can all be an Elijah be heeding what God Says.

- Elijah heeded (regarded, paid attention to, followed) what God said).
- 1 Kings 17:1 (The Canaanites believed that Baal controlled the rain. Baal was the rain and fertility god. Elijah’s words declared that His God had power over their god. In Israel’s agricultural economy, this meant famine, followed by pestilence (a deadly and overwhelming disease that affects an entire community), then death.
- 1 Kings 17:2-5a (“Elijah went and did according to the word of the Lord”—v.5)
- 1 Kings 17:8-10a (“Elijah arose and went to Zarephath”—v.10)
- 18:1-2 (Elijah went to present himself to Ahab”—v.2)

Application: To “heed” what God says you must read what God says. To heed you must read. Begin with Psalm 119:18. Don’t ignore what God says. This was Israel’s mistake. This is America’s mistake.

Illustration: We make our own laws ignoring what God said.

1. Abortion
2. Same sex marriage
3. Homosexuality

2. We can all be an Elijah if we will pray like Elijah prayed.

- Now all of us pray to some extent.
- But few of us pray like Elijah prayed.
- 1 Kings 17: 17-22
- 1 Kings 18: 36-37 (a miracle from heaven)
- 1 Kings 18:42 (a drought to end)

Illustration: In Jon's sermon Wednesday night, he shared his own heart something about prayer that convicted me about my praying. He said that God convicted him that he does not pray that people in Hamas will be saved. They are evil. They have souls. They need Jesus.

The Palestinian's that do not know Jesus need to be saved. Muslims need to be saved. The Jews that do not know Jesus need to be saved.

Application: Elijah praying is praying for things that only God can do. The exciting thing is that all of us can do it.

3. Another way we can all be an Elijah is to live close enough to God to hear Him speak.

- In chapter 18 we see Elijah's faith.
- In chapter 19 we see Elijah's fear.
- Elijah was human like we are. (James 5:17)
- But in his heart, he belonged to God.
- Hiding in a cave God spoke to Elijah (1 Kings 19:9-13a).

Application: Whether your life seems like you are living in a cave, so to speak, or on a mountain top, you can hear God speak if you are living close to Him.

1. No unconfessed sin
2. Consistent in your spiritual disciplines of prayer and Bible reading
3. Heeding what you read—Embrace what it means to you.

Conclusion: Dwight L. Moody was a 19th century American evangelist. Coming out of an all-night prayer meeting, Henry Varley, a lay preacher and butcher, said to Moody, "The world is yet to see what God will do with a man fully consecrated to him." For some period, those words grew in Moody's heart until ultimately, he said, "God, I will be that man." From that point on, Moody's ministry seemed to have an unexplainable electric charge not only in Americas but in England.

I do not know how much life on earth I yet have. Nor do you. What I do know is tht I have from this moment forward what ever that time is. So do you.

If you said to God this morning, "I will be that man/woman" and asked God to help you, you could be an Elijah.