

THE LIFE OF ELIJAH
"When Fatigue Sets In"
1 Kings 19:1-21

INTRODUCTION:

1. Today many suffer from Emotional Collapse.
 - a) Meaning life has collapsed
 - b) Followed by Pain and great Depression in our emotional being.
2. The **Supernatural Miracle** we need has nothing to do with our circumstances but has to do with staying in our right minds.
3. When discouragement lingers on it can turn into depression.
 - a) And depression is discouragement on steroids.
 - b) When discouragement goes unresolved it leads to depression.
 - 1) And when depression goes unresolved it leads to despair.
 - 2) And when you get to despair you have reached a level of hopelessness where you see not exit.
 - c) When discouragement leads to depression that leads to despair, that's when people consider death.
4. When we last saw Elijah: **18:44-46**
 - a) *"And the hand of the LORD was on him"*
5. Elijah was heroic without question!!
 - a) He was of great humility.
 - b) He was just a man like us.
6. When we read our Bibles we find that such feelings were not uncommon among many of those we would consider successful men of God.
 - a) **Moses** - Numbers 11: 13-15
 - b) **Job** - Job 3:11
 - c) **Jonah** 4:8
 - d) **Paul** - 2 Corinthians 1:8
7. For several years now Elijah stood strong against insurmountable odds!!
 - a) AND NOW??
 - 1) Elijah has fallen into the pit of despair!!

FOUR MAJOR PERSONALITIES

I. AHAB THE KING

1. *1 Kings 19:1*

2. Ahab was dominated by his wife Jezebel!!!

3. Ahab fell apart under pressure.

a) When that happened he relied on his wife to get him through and to give him the strength that he needed to survive.

II. JEZEBEL THE CONTROLLER

1. Ahab also relied on Jezebel to carry out his responsibilities as King.

2. *1 Kings 19:2*

3. Jezebel fits to the T the definition of a domineering wife.

a) She used **threats, intimidation**, and schemes when she saw Ahab crumbling under pressure.

III. ELIJAH THE PROPHET

1. Vs 2

2. Vs 3-4

a) Elijah couldn't have run further.

3. Remember the scene in *Forest Gump* where he ran clean across Alabama and then all the way to the ocean?

4. Beersheba was the southern limit of the land.

5. **QUESTION:** So why did Elijah fear Jezebel's threats?

A. ELIJAH WAS NOT THINKING CLEARLY

1. Elijah was so shortsighted that he failed to consider the source of this threat.

2. This threat came from an unbelieving woman who lived a godless life.

B. SEPARATED HIMSELF FROM OTHER BELIEVERS

1. Vs 3

2. Discouraged people are lonely people.
3. That courage transfusion would have kept him strong.

C. CAUGHT IN THE UNDERTOW OF A GREAT VICTORY

1. We are most vulnerable after a great victory.
2. That's why we need to set up our defense against the enemy.

D. ELIJAH WAS EMOTIONALLY AND PHYSICALLY SPENT

1. For years Elijah was **PUBLIC ENEMY NUMBER ONE**.
2. On the heels of that he had an unbelievable confrontation with the people of Israel and the prophets of Baal and Asherah!!
 - a) And Elijah was at the end of his rope physically and emotionally.

E. LOST IN SELF-PITY

1. Self-pity is a pathetic emotion.
 - a) It will lie to you. It will exaggerate. It will drive you to tears!
 - b) It will cultivate a "**victim mentality**" in your head
2. And it can even bring you to the point of wishing to die, which is where Elijah was.
 - a) "***For I am not better than my fathers.***"
 - 1) Self-pity mauls its way inside our minds like a beast and claws us to shreds.

IV. THE GOD OF MERCY

1. 19:5-8

2. What mercy by the Master.
 - a) **God allowed Elijah a time of _____ and refreshment.**
 - 1) No sermon. No rebuke. No Blame. No Shame.
 - b) **God communicated _____ with Elijah.**
 - 1) **Vs 9**
 - 2) Notice God as he counsels Elijah.
 - 3) **Vs 10**
 - a) **Vs 11-12a**

- b) **Wind - Earthquake - Fire.** One right after another
- 4) Elijah is waiting before God. But God was not in any of those disturbances.
 - a) **Vs 12b-13**
- 5) God drew Elijah out of the cave of self-pity and discouragement and depression.
 - a) **Vs 13b**
 - 1) **"What are you doing here Elijah?"**
- 6) **Vs 15-18**
- c) **God gave Elijah a close personal _____.**
 - 1) **Vs 19-21**
 - 2) God allowed Elijah to pass his mantle to Elisha, his successor.
 - 3) But also a close personal friend.

CONCLUSION:

1. When we fall into Discouragement, Depression or Despair it is absolutely essential that we get our eyes back on the Lord.
2. **LESSON HERE:** Is that sometimes we are more enamored with the gifts God gives us than the **GIVER HIMSELF.**
3. **Elijah reminds us to look up!!!**
 - a) **Let's look up** after He delivers us from Discouragement.
 - b) **Let's look up** after He delivers us from Depression.
 - c) **Let's look up** after He delivers us from Despair.
 - d) **Let's look up** after He faithfully provides a companion who understands and encourages us.
4. **THANK YOU LORD FOR ELIJAH WHO TEACHES US THAT THERE IS NOWHERE TO LOOK BUT UP.**