

The Whisper

Sometimes we look at bible characters like some of the disciples or even the prophets of the Old Testament and wonder how they could do such crazy things right after they had seen the Lord do such awesome miracles. Poor Elijah is one such person that gets a bad rap. In first Kings 19 right after he is a part to eliminating the 400 prophets of Baal, he receives a death threat from Ahab's wife Jezebel and runs for his life. We often fault Elijah because he runs in fear from a mere woman after he has seen such a huge victory. Of course we neglect that she was a fearsome foe and possessed almost unlimited resources to carry out her threat.

As Elijah flees you might expect the Lord to be angry with him or come and speak to him harshly but that doesn't happen. Instead He sends comfort to Elijah. Elijah is told to rest and to eat. When he awakes he is told to eat some more. God is concerned about his physical health.

After he begins to get his strength back Elijah gives God a speech about how he is the last prophet alive and how the Israelite people have rejected God and killed all the other prophets and now seek to kill him. Again you might expect the Lord to be angry with him or to come and speak to him harshly but that doesn't happen.

Elijah was told to head to the mountains because God was going to pass by and address him personally there. Elijah went to the mountain and took refuge in a cave as a hurricane passed through but the Lord was not in the hurricane. Next there was an earthquake eventually followed by a fire but the Lord was not heard in any of these cataclysmic events. And then there was a gentle whisper and Elijah went to the opening of the cave with his face covered to hear what the Lord had to say to him and it came in the form of a question, "What are you doing here".

Then Elijah gives God his little speech all over again about how he is the last prophet alive and how the Israelite people have rejected God and killed all the other prophets and now seek to kill him. Again you might expect the Lord to be angry with him or speak to him harshly but again that doesn't happen.

God's message was short and simple and interestingly enough had nothing to do with Jezebel at all. It consisted of a short list of things God wanted him to do. One of those things would result in him finding and making a big strong friend Elisha who would remain by his side for life. You see although God was going to protect Elijah He knew that it would be a comfort to Elijah to have a big strong friend when you have big enemies. The last part of the message was one of even further comfort. God told Elijah that there were 7000 people in reserve that had not bowed to Baal. Essentially there were resources that Elijah did not know existed.

Our loving Savior gave himself for us and He is the one who can come in a whisper and speak encouragement into our lives. He does this even when we are discouraged and complaining to Him and have forgotten how many times He has come through for us. He is the one who can send a friend and confidante to walk through life with us. He is the one who can tell us that there are unseen resources that we are not aware of.

1Kings 19:12 After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper.

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