


1 Kings 19:5-19

# “Deliverance”

*5 “Then as he lay and slept under a broom tree, suddenly an angel touched him, and said to him, “Arise and eat.” 6 Then he looked, and there by his head was a cake baked on coals, and a jar of water. So he ate and drank, and lay down again. 7 And the angel of the Lord came back the second time, and touched him, and said, “Arise and eat, because the journey is too great for you.” 8 So* **he arose**, *and* **ate** *and* **drank**; *and* **he went** *in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights as far as Horeb, the mountain of God. 9 And there he went into a cave, and spent the night in that place;* **and behold, the word of the Lord came to him**, *and He said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” 10 So he said, “I have been very zealous for the Lord God of hosts; for the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life.” 11 Then He said, “***Go out, and stand on the mountain before the Lord.***” And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces 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; 12 and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice. **13 So it was, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave.** Suddenly a voice came to him, and said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” 14 And he said, “I have been very zealous for the Lord God of hosts; because the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life.” 15 **Then the Lord said to him: “Go, return on your way to the Wilderness of Damascus; and when you arrive, anoint Hazael as king over Syria. 16 Also you shall anoint Jehu the son of Nimshi as king over Israel. And Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel Meholah you shall anoint as prophet in your place.** 17 It shall be that whoever escapes the sword of Hazael, Jehu will kill; and whoever escapes the sword of Jehu, Elisha will kill. 18 Yet I*

***have reserved seven thousand in Israel, all whose knees have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."*** [19] ***So he departed from there, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he was with the twelfth."***

**He was a man of like passions as we are (a nature like ours)**

**Elijah was in a very bad and dark place. The way he got there was:**

**He became fearful and worried**

**He trusted in himself and not God**

**He compared himself to other**

**He lived in self-pity**

**Where are you at this morning? Consider the place you are in this morning.**

**Two prominent things in this chapter**

- ☐ **The bitter fruits of the prophet's panic**
- ☐ **And the superabounding grace of the Lord unto His erring servant**

***and behold, the word of the Lord came to him***

***Unique language-***

- ☐ **God meets you where you are- 9**
- ☐ **It happens suddenly- 13**

**God loves you where you are, but He loves you too much to let you stay there.**

An old saint was asked what happens if we turn our backs on God's light? He answered Well God will shine on your back.

***Go out, and stand on the mountain before the Lord.- 11***

- **1. A personal and direct command**

**Horeb- Exodus 3:1-4; Deuteronomy 4:15**

**His reaction to the command**

## ✓He obeyed

- **Probably made no sense to reason**

**THE WIND, EARTHQUAKE, AND FIRE**

***and after the fire a still small voice***

☐ ***His reaction to the voice***

## ✓He humbled himself

**Why did he wrap his face in the mantle?**

**a mantle was typically a large, loosely fitting garment made of animal skin, probably sheepskin.**

**Prophets were known for wearing mantles as a sign of their calling from God**

**The prophet's mantle was an indication of his authority and responsibility as God's chosen spokesman (2 Kings 2:8).**

**The mantle served the practical purpose of keeping people warm and protecting them from the elements. It also served a symbolic purpose, in**

**the case of the prophets, showing they were wrapped in God's authority. Like all imagery in the Old Testament, the mantle presents a visible representation of a New Testament principle. The mantle can be seen as a symbol of the anointing of the Holy Spirit whom God so graciously gives to all Christians, the people of His choosing.**

**Elijah's act of wrapping his face in his mantle at 1 Kings 19:13 was a religious and symbolic response to God's presence, combining reverence before divine holiness with the symbolic role of his prophetic garment.**

• Moses "hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God" at the bush (Exodus 3:6).

• The seraphim "covered their faces" while crying "Holy, holy, holy" (Isaiah 6:2-3).

• Isaiah himself exclaims, "Woe to me… my eyes have seen the King" (Isaiah 6:5).

**Dear Lord, I want to hear Your voice. Empty my reservoir of self-reliance, and give me a proper perspective of Your sovereign power. Make me ready to listen.**

**The accent in the Church today," says Leonard Ravenhill, the English evangelist, "is not on devotion, but on commotion." Religious extroversion has been carried to such an extreme in evangelical circles that hardly anyone has the desire, to say nothing of the courage, to question the soundness of it.**

**We must fear God!**

***"What are you doing here, Elijah?"***

- **2. A personal and caring question** (direct)

**God is such a caring God and cares about our thoughts.**

Psalm 139:1-6; 17

☐ **His reaction to the question**

✓**He answered with honesty**

***Psalm 23- he restoreth my soul***

***"Go, return on your way to the Wilderness of Damascus; and when you arrive, anoint Hazael as king over Syria. 16 Also you shall anoint Jehu the son of Nimshi as king over Israel. And Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel Meholah you shall anoint as prophet in your place. 17 It shall be that whoever escapes the sword of Hazael, Jehu will kill; and whoever escapes the sword of Jehu, Elisha will kill. 18 Yet I have reserved seven thousand in Israel, all whose knees have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."***

- **3. A personal and specific plan** (direct, caring)

**If you are in a position of failure today God never wants you to stay there, He doesn't want you to stay in the place of defeat, it is always go, return.**

✓ **DON'T WASTE YOUR LIFE!!!**

**God has a plan for your life!**

☐ **His reaction to the plan**

**He went**

**Elijah raised no objection, made no delay, but responded promptly. Obedience must ever be the test of our relations with God.**

**2 Kings 8:12; 10:31**

- **Life is short and there is more to life than your job**
- **There is more to life than possessions**
- **There is more to life than comfort**

- **There is more to life than sports**
- **There is more to life than you career**
- **There is more to life than your hobbies**
- **There is more to life than your bank account and security for the future**

**There is a spiritual plan from God for your life in service to Him. That is the most and only important thing in your life. What are you doing for HIM?**

**Elijah, get back to serving and following God.** **Genesis 12:10, 13:3**

**Wiersbe: God was calling Elijah to stop weeping over the past and running away from the present. It was time for him to start preparing others for the future. When God is in command, there is always hope.**

**The care of the soul is a "matter of the highest importance," beyond anything which can be brought into comparison with it.- George Whitefield**

**Rev 2:4; Jeremiah 3:12; John 21:16 (Luke 22:32)**

**One of the saddest and most solemn features of this degenerate age is that the ranks of the righteous are so depleted and scarcely any are being raised up to fill their places. It is this which makes the outlook doubly dark.**

**Who or what are we serving. What is God's plan for your life?**

⇒ **Blessed indeed is it to see how the Lord had restored Elijah's soul to the most intimate communion with himself: recovering him from his gloom and reinstating him in his service.**