

The Questions God Asks

Part 3

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What Are You Doing Here?

The Plot

When Ahab got home, he told Jezebel everything Elijah had done, including the way he had killed all the prophets of Baal. So Jezebel sent this message to Elijah: “May the gods strike me and even kill me if by this time tomorrow I have not killed you just as you killed them.”

1 Kings 19:1-2 NLT

The Prophet

Elijah was afraid and fled for his life. He went to Beersheba, a town in Judah, and he left his servant there. Then he went on alone into the wilderness, traveling all day. He sat down under a solitary broom tree and prayed that he might die. “I have had enough, Lord,” he said. “Take my life, for I am no better than my ancestors who have already died.”

1 Kings 19:3-4 NLT

God’s Provision of Grace

Then he lay down and slept under the broom tree. But as he was sleeping, an angel touched him and told him, “Get up and eat!” He looked around and there beside his head was some bread baked on hot stones and a jar of water! So he ate and drank and lay down again. Then the angel of the Lord came again and touched him and said, “Get up and eat some more, or the journey ahead will be too much for you.” So he got up and ate and drank, and the food gave him enough strength to travel forty days and forty nights to Mount Sinai, the mountain of God. There he came to a cave, where he spent the night.

1 Kings 19:5-9 NLT

“Never think that you can live for God by your own power or strength; but always look to and rely on Him for all, strength and grace.”

-David Brainard

- God Gives Grace
- God Gives Rest
- God Gives Refreshing

God Probes Elijah

Question 1

But the Lord said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

“God asks us questions in order to refocus our hearts and our lives on Him.”

-ML

The Problem with Self Pity

Elijah replied, “I have zealously served the Lord God Almighty. But the people of Israel have broken their covenant with you, torn down your altars, and killed every one of your prophets. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me, too.”

1 Kings 19:10 NLT

- I Have Been Serving
- But “They” Have Broken Their Covenant
- I am the Only One Left Serving God

‘Self-pity is of the devil and if I wallow in it, I cannot be used by God for His purpose in the world.’

-Oswald Chambers

God’s Proposal to Hear and Follow

“Go out and stand before me on the mountain,” the Lord told him. And as Elijah stood there, the Lord passed by, and a mighty windstorm hit the mountain. It was such a terrible blast that the rocks were torn loose, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. And after the earthquake there was a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there was the sound of a gentle whisper. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

1 Kings 19:11-13 NLT

Question 2

And a voice said, “What are You Doing Here, Elijah?”

He replied again, “I have zealously served the Lord God Almighty. But the people of Israel have broken their covenant with you, torn down your altars, and killed every one of your prophets. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me, too.”

1 Kings 19:14 NLT

The Path is Obedience and Faith

“God does not give us everything we want, but He does fulfill His promises, leading us along the best and straightest paths to Himself.”

-Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Then the Lord told him, “Go back the same way you came, and travel to the wilderness of Damascus. When you arrive there, anoint Hazael to be king of Aram. Then anoint Jehuto be king of Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphatto replace you as my prophet. Anyone who escapes from Hazael will be killed by Jehu, and those who escape Jehu will be killed by Elisha!

1 Kings 19:15-17 NLT

The Promise

Yet I will preserve 7,000 others in Israel who have never bowed down to Baal or kissed him!

1 Kings 19:18 NLT

This is my comfort in my affliction, that Your promise gives me life.

Psalms 119:50 ESV

“The future is as bright as the promises of God.”

-William Carey