



WHEN WE FEEL ALONE.

When we meet Elijah here in 1 Kings, he is feeling dejected & alone. He was being singled out, hunted, and had no one to bear the load with him... so he thought.

But God was near. Though Elijah felt completely alone - even asking for death! - the angel of the Lord (most scholars believe that's the pre-incarnate Jesus) came near to take care of Elijah's physical needs. He gave him enough energy & motivation to go from sleeping to tackling a forty day journey.

And then God reminded Elijah of his nearness in a still, small whisper.

It's easy to look for God in the big, grand displays of faith - incredible miracles, mountaintop conferences, bold prayers clearly answered. But in this story, God chooses to come in the quiet moments. A nap, a snack, and a whisper.

In this story, you can hear Elijah's despair. "I'm the only one left & they're trying to kill me too." But God quietly meets him in that despair. God gives him what he needs, provides him with community, and offers Elijah himself in the silence.

PRACTICING THE WAY:

This week, practice eating & drinking! Elijah encountered God through a snack & God answered Elijah's prayers through community. We'll be revisiting this practice (now called "community" starting in October!

IN THE BIBLE.

1 KINGS 19:1-18

When Ahab got home, he told Jezebel everything Elijah had done, including the way he had killed all the prophets of Baal. ² 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.”

³ Elijah was afraid and fled for his life. He went to Beersheba, a town in Judah, and he left his servant there. ⁴ 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.”

⁵ 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!” ⁶ 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.

⁷ 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.”

⁸ 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. ⁹ There he came to a cave, where he spent the night.

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

¹⁰ 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.”

¹¹ “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. ¹² 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. ¹³ When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

And a voice said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

¹⁴ 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.”

¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ Then anoint Jehu grandson of Nimshi to be king of Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from the town of Abel-meholah to replace you as my prophet. ¹⁷ Anyone who escapes from Hazael will be killed by Jehu, and those who escape Jehu will be killed by Elisha! ¹⁸ Yet I will preserve 7,000 others in Israel who have never bowed down to Baal or kissed him!"

DEUTERONOMY 31:6 (*quoted in Hebrews 13:5*)

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.

QUESTIONS.

Feel free to talk through some or all of these questions

- 1.) What sticks out to you in the verses above? What encourages you? Challenges you?
- 2.) How do you personally notice or listen for God's "gentle whisper"?
- 3.) Looking at Elijah's despair, God didn't shame him... He met him where he was. What does this tell us about God's character?
- 4.) *Pastor Adam started the series with these two questions:*
Where has God been silent lately? How is God forming you in that silence?

TAKE TEN:

- How did you see God work in your life this week?
- What has God been teaching you in His Word?
- What kind of conversations are you having with your pre-Christian friends?
- What good can you do around here? (in your life/circumstance)
- How can we help you in prayer and what do you want us to ask you about next week?

Whenever you read the Bible, ask yourself these three questions:

1. What does this tell you about God?
2. What does this tell you about yourself and the world?
3. How is this going to change who you are and how you live?