

Elijah the Man and His Faithful God

Brynmawr Family Church Sermon

Matt Rees, Sunday 3rd November 2011

Rd 1Kings 19:1-18

- Introduction
- Look at Elijah: great biblical character, from whom we can learn so much
- Fascinating look at the way that God deals with us when we move from his will, move from what he's got for us.
- Remember the context: Baal and Baal's prophets. Elijah has seen the awesome power of God displayed.
- And so when we arrive at the story we see. And yet he runs away at the slightest threat.
- Elijah hides away. Fear of man.
- Even though he's just seen such power, he very quickly forgets God's power. He forgets that his peace is found in God
- I don't know about you, but I can relate to that! It doesn't make sense, but I do it.
- We then see Elijah being taken on this journey. He ends up in a cave on Mount Sinai
- After having forgotten God's power and faithfulness, he continues to live in a world where he's forgotten God:
- Elijah deceives himself; he presents his version of the truth.
- He says to God there's only me, which isn't true. He looks at the situation from where he's sitting and understands it through his own strength. He's wrapped up in his own strength.
- He forgets what has happened and forgets the reality of the situation.
- Which world view do we have this morning? From what lens are we looking at our situation?
- He relies on God, but so quickly forgets.
- Vs.4: 'It's enough now God' and asks to die when in reality God has given him so much.

- We really see Elijah the man in this situation. After seeing Elijah the prophet, the man of God in the previous chapter, we really see his humanity and weakness in this chapter.
 - Such a human reaction. The great leader and prophet at the end of the day is like you and me.
 - But what is comforting is: God doesn't scorn him for it, God choose at this time to draw near.
-
- God takes him away and speaks to him- He could have decided not to bother, leave Elijah to his own devices, leave him to his self-pity. But God chooses to take Elijah away and speak to him in his hour of need.
 - Even when Elijah has lost himself in the wilderness, he is cared for. His needs are met; food is provided and an angel guards him as he sleeps.
 - And I love the fact our God is the same God today. He cares for our every need. He makes himself known, even when he shouldn't need to
 - He's made himself know by bringing fire down from heaven (in front of the prophets of Baal), and yet he also draws near on a personal level to Elijah and meets his needs.
 - He's the God of power and glory, and also the God of the personal and intimate.
-
- And this is seen no more than what happens outside of the cave Elijah's in...
 - We see the parade of the fire, earthquake and wind. God shows his glory, just like he did by bringing fire down to earth.
 - He humbles Elijah and shows his glory.
 - God can meet him in this way, but chooses to meet him in a different way, he meets Elijah in exactly the right way at the right time...
 - After all the noise, it's the quiet whispering of God that speaks to him, that revives his soul. He didn't cover his face for the wind, fire and earthquake. But he covers his face when he hears the whisper. Because he knows it's God. It's unmistakable.
 - When it came to speaking to the people of Israel he brought fire down, but when he needed to speak to Elijah he needed to do it on a personal level, to his soul.
 - I love the fact that the God who comes in such power, also comes in the still small voice. He speaks right to Elijah's soul.

- He says I was big enough for that huge situation when I sent fire down from heaven, but I'm also interested in you, in this small cave on Mount Horeb. There are 7,000 others I could use, but I'm interested in you. I care about you and I want to use you.
- God promises Elijah help. I've got 7,000 and I'll give you Elijah.
- These are his needs at this time. This is what he promises.
- He's big enough for the biggest of situations; he's bothered enough to speak to you right now. Even if you've run away, he wants to speak to you. He wants to use you.
- Dare to listen to the still small voice? It might send you back to the situation you're running from. It might ask you to do something you don't want to do. But if God asks you to do that, you've got to believe he's big enough to see it through and to make sure you're ok.
- We need to get away, give time for God to speak. He'll meet our needs. He'll speak to us. Whether that's fire, or a small still voice.