

# Meeting God at the End of Your Rope



Elijah & Elisha

# Meeting God at the End of Your Rope

Most familiar with end of the rope

- discouragement
- depression
- despondent about future

Meet Elijah in that Place

- Background to our passage
- \*out of hiding, victorious, ready to lead a repentant people back to God...Elijah is in for a shock



# Meeting God at the End of Your Rope

## 1 Kings 19

“Now Ahab told Jezebel everything Elijah had done and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. <sup>2</sup> So Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah to say, “May the gods deal with me, be it ever so severely, if by this time tomorrow I do not make your life like that of one of them.”





## Meeting God at the End of Your Rope

Elijah was afraid and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there,<sup>4</sup> while he himself went a day's journey into the desert. He came to a broom tree, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. "I have had enough, LORD," he said. "Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors."<sup>5</sup> Then he lay down under the tree and fell asleep."

# Meeting God at the End of Your Rope

## 1. Elijah at his Rope's End

- some reasons for this condition

### a) poured out in serving

- confrontations

- persisting in prayer

- burden of leading publicly

- mountain top – seeing God work and reveal – tomorrow always hard



# Meeting God at the End of Your Rope

## b) fear overrode faith

- Jezebel promises death
- back into hiding, what was this all for?

## c) future & futility

- if after that this is the response, what point is there?
- this isn't working – I can't keep doing this



# Meeting God at the End of Your Rope

## 2. God's Response and Care

<sup>5</sup> Then he lay down under the tree and fell asleep. All at once an angel touched him and said, "Get up and eat." <sup>6</sup> He looked around, and there by his head was a cake of bread baked over hot coals, and a jar of water. He ate and drank and then lay down again. <sup>7</sup> The angel of the LORD came back a second time and touched him and said, "Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you." <sup>8</sup> So he got up and ate and drank. Strengthened by that food, he traveled forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God.



# Meeting God at the End of Your Rope

## 2. God's Response and Care

<sup>9</sup> There he went into a cave and spent the night.”  
And the word of the LORD came to him: “What are you doing here, Elijah?” <sup>10</sup> He replied, “I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, broken down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too.” <sup>11</sup> The LORD said, “Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by.”







# Meeting God at the End of Your Rope

## 2. God's Response and Care

Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake.

<sup>12</sup> After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. <sup>13</sup> When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave.

Then a voice said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

# Meeting God at the End of Your Rope

## 2. God's Response and Care

### a) physical renewal

- food and sleep – divinely prepared
- note the absence of a sermon or a talking to – renewal
- Mk 6:31 “Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, “Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.”



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## b) retreat to meet

- Mount Horeb
- place of listening not running

## c) hearing your heart

- what are you doing here?
- I have been; zealous, obedient
- they have been; unfaithful
- I am in danger for my life!
- Elijah recounting situation for God



# Meeting God at the End of Your Rope

## d) revealed and refocused

- God shows his power and authority through wind, earthquake and fire.

Creation is mine, the divine has power

- God reveals his presence and person in a gentle whisper.

- we often desire displays of power when what we need is revelation of presence



# Meeting God at the End of Your Rope

## 3. God's Commission 13b-18

“Then a voice said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

<sup>14</sup> He replied, “I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, broken down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too.”

<sup>15</sup> The LORD said to him, “Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael king over Aram.



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## 3. God's Commission 13b-18

<sup>16</sup> Also, anoint Jehu son of Nimshi king over Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed you as prophet.

<sup>17</sup> Jehu will put to death any who escape the sword of Hazael, and Elisha will put to death any who escape the sword of Jehu. <sup>18</sup> Yet I reserve seven thousand in Israel—all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal and all whose mouths have not kissed him.”



# Meeting God at the End of Your Rope

## 3. God's Commission 13b-18

- in light of knowing my power & presence

a) I am at work in the Nation

- anoint Hazael over Aram

- anoint Jehu over Israel

b) I am providing you help

- anoint Elisha a prophet

c) You are not alone

- I am preserving 7000



# Meeting God at the End of Your Rope

## So What

1. There will be valleys in your life

\* some indicators to be aware of:

- poured out in service & work
- fear overrides your faith
- future filled with futility





# Meeting God at the End of Your Rope

## So What

1. There will be valleys in your life
2. God Cares – helpful pattern here
  - restored physically
  - retreat to meet with God
  - express your heart to Him
  - wait for renewal – God revealing his person & work to you



# Meeting God at the End of Your Rope

## So What

1. There will be valleys in your life
2. God Cares – helpful pattern here
3. Be Commissioned Back to Battle
  - as a disciple – clear commission



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