

Living Connections Bible Study



What Are You Doing Here?

Text: Romans 11:2-4; 1 Kings 19

Prayer

Icebreaker: Describe a time when physical exertion, exhaustion, lack of sleep and good nutrition led to spiritual discouragement, despondency, despair or depression.

1. Scan 1 Kings chapters 17 -18, looking back over the previous 3½ years in Elijah’s life and pick out the highlights of his successful ministry for God, leading to his great victories on Mount Carmel.

For 3½ years Elijah had been under God’s protection, depending on God for His daily power and direction. In New Testament terms Elijah had been walking by means of the Holy Spirit. He had learned to listen to the still small voice of God and to obey promptly. He depended on the leading of the Holy Spirit day by day and hour by hour. The lines of communication were always open between him and Heaven.

2. Why would God’s faithful prophet run from the threats of wicked Jezebel after experiencing so many victories in his life? 1 Kings 19:1-3

3. How did Peter illustrate this that night in the storm on the Sea of Galilee? Matthew 14:25-32

4. How desperate had Elijah’s situation become? 1 Kings 19:4

5. What physical needs did God meet first in Elijah’s life before He began to deal with Elijah’s spiritual depression? 1 Kings 19:5-8

6. Why would God ask Elijah, *What are you doing here?* 1 Kings 19:9

7. What six reasons did Elijah give for his being where he was? 1 Kings 19:10

- 1)

- 2)

- 3)

- 4)

- 5)

- 6)

Elijah's six reasons for his present predicament were dripping with self-pity. In short, he was claiming to be the only one left in Israel who remained faithful to God. It is not uncommon for those going through depression and despondency to feel alone. Their problems become so big that they feel the whole world has turned against them. They may even feel that God has failed them.

8. What did God show Elijah on the mountain outside the mouth of the cave? 1 Kings 19:11-12

9. How does God demonstrate that listening to His voice is more important than focusing on signs and wonders? 1 Kings 19:11-12; Isaiah 30:21; John 16:13

10. What is the inference from God asking Elijah a second time, *What are you doing here?* 1 Kings 19:13-14

The difference between those who are *mighty in Spirit* and those who are not is that those who are have learned to recognize *the still small voice of God* speaking to their hearts through the Bible and they are quick to trust and obey.

11. How did God demonstrate that He still had confidence in His servant Elijah and would still use him? 1 Kings 19:15-17

12. What encouraging report did Elijah need to hear from God and what lesson does this teach us? 1 Kings 19:18

13. What was to be the focus and important mission of Elijah's ministry until God took him home to Heaven? Why is this important for us today?
1 Kings 19:19-21; Matthew 28:19-20; 2 Timothy 2:2

Think about it this week:

One of the biggest problems with depressed people is that they have lost their motivation to serve. They sit around feeling sorry for themselves. One of the best therapies for them is to get busy serving God. The cure for Elijah's depression was to get his eyes back on the Lord; to recognize that he was not indispensable, and then get busy serving Him by serving others.

Stop feeling sorry for yourself. Change your focus. Get your eyes off yourself and fixed on the Lord. Stop being so introspective and get an outward focus. The world is full of needy people. Ask God to show you the needs around you where He can use you to be a blessing. Focus on the tasks at hand. Get busy for Jesus and you will soon stop feeling sorry for yourself as you bring joy, help, friendship, and deliverance to others.