

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Road Map
Pastor Roger W. Huffman

1 Kings 19:9-19
August 23, 2020

Why are you here?

- God doesn't just ask Elijah once. He asks him **twice**: *Why are you here?*
- Does that question make you chuckle? I does me - every time.
 - ◆ The Angel of Yahweh (the Son of God) equipped Elijah with a special meal, said, *Get up and eat, because the journey is too much for you.* 1 King 19:7
 - ◆ That suggests Yahweh brought him here to ask: *Why are you here?*
- Elijah knew Yahweh was asking him: *Didn't I call you to shepherd in Israel?*
 - ◆ Elijah's answer: *You know how zealously I've work - all for **nothing**.*
- ❖ Have a heart. Identify with Elijah - walk in Elijah's sandals for a moment
 - A ministry of seclusion from Ahab for 3 years during drought
 - At God's command - the competition on Mt. Carmel - Yahweh's great victory
 - Jezebel's threat on Elijah's life. This threw Elijah into a tailspin - dejected
 - On his own, Elijah left Israel, went to southern Judah, met the Angel of Yahweh
 - Sent on a 200 mile, 40 day journey to Horeb, Mt. Sinai - lots of time to reflect
 - Still convinced he had no impact for Yahweh. Israel was lost. He was done in.
 - Can you identify? Pour your heart and soul into something. Disappointing.
- ❖ Yahweh's care for Elijah
 - See Yahweh's compassion - time to renew Elijah for the rest of his ministry
 - ◆ Yahweh **didn't** scold and command Elijah. *Get back to work!*
 - Yahweh didn't even directly correct Elijah's facts.
 - ◆ Jezebel's threat, disappointment with Ahab, skewed Elijah's objective view
 - ◆ He forgot: the people rose up at Mt. Carmel: *Yahweh - he is God!*
 - They followed Elijah's order to seize Baal's 450 prophets and kill them
 - ◆ Elijah's servants - Obadiah - the 100 prophets Obadiah protected from Ahab
 - Yahweh addressed the heart of the issue - restoring Elijah's **focus, faith, hope**
 - ◆ Elijah expected Yahweh's mighty deeds to change hearts.
 - 3 years of famine + the consuming fire on Mt. Carmel
 - ◆ But Yahweh was **not in** the *strong rock-shattering wind, the mountain moving earthquake, or the scorching fire.* He worked it, but was not working in them.
 - ◆ Yahweh was present in a *soft, whispering voice* - God's word - the gospel!
 - Like Moses meeting Yahweh on this mountain, covered his face/worshipped
 - The seemingly simple, gentle, not flashy, plain word of God.
 - This is *the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.* Rom. 1:16
 - **God's word is powerful!** Even under Jezebel's temptation and persecution Yahweh preserved 7,000 people in Israel, devoted only to him. PTL!
 - ◆ **Focus off** flashy. **Focus on** God's word. **Trust** it alone. Make this your **hope** for yourself, your loved ones, and for changing the hearts of others.
- ❖ The answer to: *Why are you here?*
 - Elijah was here because putting his hope in the wrong things he was dejected
 - Here to step back, retreat to be refreshed - renewed mission/purpose, trust God

Why are you here?

- ❖ Travel to Horeb with Elijah, through the word.
 - Listen to Yahweh's question. We can and should identify with Elijah.
 - Examine your *here* and our *here*: location, mindset, and purpose
 - Location
 - ◆ Here in worship: habit - obligation - for the word: to be fed & renewed
 - Maybe all 3. Habits help! It is our duty - but not law! Pure privilege.
 - Focused on fed & renewed, then work at it.
 - prepare: preview, rest, here in time to get in a frame of mind (pre-service)
 - ◆ Here: SE Pennsylvania - King of Prussia.
 - Jesus has placed you, yes us, here for a purpose - mission
 - A question a pastor asks himself, even when he isn't deliberating a call.
 - A question you as a church family need to ask - define purpose for the call packet you assemble when calling for a new pastor.
 - *Why are you here?* A workable location for a preaching station - a witness to and refuge in the word for K of P - a base to serve Philadelphia
 - Mindset
 - ◆ Years of work, trying different things, can give us an Elijah mindset
 - Discouraged, not seeing the fruit of our labor
 - Missing the people impacted by the 65 years of gospel ministry here - people scattered across the world and of course those in heaven.
 - Number small, but the devotion of those gathered - the grateful served online
 - ◆ Missing the blessings of being small. We're open. Big places aren't yet.
 - ◆ Mindset that sees and trusts the power of the gospel - reveres God's word
 - It's here. It needs to be fanned and to grow.
 - Mission
 - ◆ Trusting the gospel is not sitting back with a hands-off, leave it to others view
 - ◆ Those who see and sense God's life-giving presence in the gospel - fired up!
 - ◆ How can we breathe in God's life and not want others to have it?
 - ◆ Live asking, *Why am I here?* It opens our eyes to see the people God puts in our daily life or on our path - people who need God's word.
 - The more the gospel colors my life and how I see reality, it fills my thoughts and naturally flows in conversation without *being preachy*.
 - Speak of its joy, its light, its hope, its peace.
 - The gospel is *practical* because **it is life**.
 - God's word gives enduring purpose to your life - to grow in it, live it, share it.
 - ◆ Being active in mission **where you live**, will **impact** our work at **Peace**.
 - It's a Kingdom of grace. To the faithful, God brings the unexpected unrelated
 - Your work in your location could lead to satellite Bible Studies or more.
 - Ask, *Why am I here?*, to grow in faithfulness, so Yahweh works in and through me with his *soft, whispering voice*. What a God! That's why he asks,

Why are you here?