Eastridge Church Sermon Study Questions

Elijah: A Prophet for the Ages Week 4: Prayer on the Run Passage: 1 Kings 18:42-19:18



Re-read 1 Kings 18:42-19:18

As our passage opens, we see that Elijah may be extending an olive branch to King Ahab. Considering what Ahab and Jezebel have brought into Israel, this may seem unexpected but it also reveals some important qualities of God that we are called to emulate as His people: grace and kindness. What would it look like for us to be people that are gracious and kind in victory? How is this behavior different than what the world does? What does this grace and kindness leave room for in the people that are in opposition?

There is a sudden shift for Elijah in this passage. He goes from being at the center of an incredible display of God's power, to finding himself alone in a desert asking God to take his life. In the midst of the changes, we see that Elijah continues to be a man of prayer and leans into his relationship with God. *What stands out to you about this big shift that Elijah experiences?* The past year has been a time of trial for everyone. *How has this past year affected your prayer life?*

As mentioned earlier, grace and kindness are two central qualities of God's character. **Re-read 1 Kings 19:3-18**. How does God show His grace and kindness to Elijah in the midst of his brokenness? In your own words, why is it significant that God's presence comes to Elijah in the form of a "gentle whisper" (NIV)? How does God address Elijah's primary complaint?

It was important that Elijah was able to listen for how God was going to speak to him. In prayer we will often spend most of our time speaking and very little time listening. *What are some practical ways you could incorporate listening into your prayer life?*

Close your time in prayer. Thank God for his grace and kindness and ask for his help to better imitate those qualities of His in your daily interactions. Also, praise Him for the fact that no matter how alone or defeated we may feel, He has already won the victory and has preserved a remnant that is devoted to Him.

Resources to dig deeper:

- <u>How to Weather the Worsening Trust Crisis</u> – article by Brett McCracken that Pastor Dwain mentioned at the end of the sermon.