

ELIJAH - AN EXAMPLE FOR US

1Ki 18:7-16

INTRODUCTION:

- A. We know nothing of Elijah's early life. Appears in 1Ki 17:1 prophesying no rain or dew, but according to his words.
- B. From this time forward in Elijah's life there are lessons we can learn that will help us in our service to God.
- C. Let's notice some aspects of Elijah's life from which we can draw some lessons helpful to us.

DISCUSSION:

I. ELIJAH WAS A MAN OF COURAGE

- A. Dared to rebuke wicked king Ahab 1Ki 18:17,18
- B. Challenged the vacillating Israel 1Ki 18:21-24
- C. Challenged prophets of Baal & Asherah 1Ki 18:25-40
 1. He mocked these false gods v 27
 2. God approved his actions vs 36-38
 3. False prophets were killed v 40
- D. Told Ahab of judgment of God regarding Naboth's vineyard 1Ki 21:19-24
 1. The courage of Elijah was manifested in John the baptist Lk 1:17; Matt 14:3,4
 2. It takes courage to fight the good fight of faith 2Tim 1:7; Matt 10:28; Heb 13:6

II. ELIJAH - A MAN SUBJECT TO DISCOURAGEMENT

- A. Powerful prayers; staggering faith; courageous confrontations and wholehearted devotion to God makes Elijah seem almost superhuman Jas 5:17,18
- B. Yet, under Juniper tree in utter disappointment and despair 1Ki 19:4
- C. Why was Elijah discouraged?
 1. Physically tired: ran from Carmel to Jezreel (30 mi) 1Ki 18:46; fled to Beersheba (100 mi) 1Ki 19:3; and went a day's journey more 1Ki 19:4
 - a. Our body is temple of Holy Spirit 1Cor 6:19,20
 - b. Spiritual state is affected by physical state
 2. Elijah was lonely 1Ki 19:10
 - a. Elation and victory at Carmel faded, applause and affirmation of faith by people replaced by the murderous threat of a wicked queen 1Ki 19:2
 - b. Not really alone (7,000 left) 1Ki 19:18; and God was with him
 - c. God with us Rom 8:31; Heb 13:5; Psa 139:7-12
 - d. Others are bravely walking with God 1Pet 4:12
 3. Elijah felt a sense of worthlessness
 - a. Victory at Carmel forgotten; Israel returned to old ways. His work seemed in vain
 - b. Work for the Lord never in vain 1Cor 15:58

D. What is the remedy?

1. "Escape" not the answer. Elijah and Jonah show us we can't run away
2. "GO" work 1Ki 19:15-17
 - a. We must "go teach" Matt 28:19; Mk 16:15
 - b. Early church did not go out with disposition "look what world is coming to" but with encouraging disposition "look what has come into the world"
 - c. Self-pity breeds depression. A Saviour-oriented life chases away the blues.

III. ELIJAH - A MIGHTY MAN OF PRAYER Jas 5:17,18

- A. Prayed seven times for rain 1Ki 18:42-44; prayed for widow's son 1Ki 17:21; prayed for fire 1Ki 18:36,37; 2Ki 1:10-12
- B. God answered his prayers because he was a righteous man Jas 5:16
- C. Bible heroes who possessed great courage prayed often Dan 6:10; Acts 9:11; 16:25
- D. To have the kind of courage Elijah had we must be active in prayer at all times 1Thess 5:17,18

IV. ELIJAH - A MAN LIKE UNTO US Jas 5:17,18

- A. "Like passions" not meaning excitable and irritable, but having our same nature Acts 14:15 (nkjv same nature)
 1. Had our emotions, desires, weaknesses & infirmities
 2. Can't work miracles like Elijah, but we can proclaim the word like him with zeal and courage
- B. Elijah carried to heaven 2Ki 2:11
- C. We too, can be "caught up in the clouds" 1Thess 4:17
- D. With Moses, Elijah appeared with Jesus Matt 17:3
- E. We too, shall ever be with the Lord 1Thess 4:17

CONCLUSION:

- A. Elijah sets a fine example for us to follow: He did God's will in face of tremendous obstacles
- B. His faith and courage was sufficient to sustain him through some very trying times.
- C. Don't you want to be carried to heaven to be with Jesus? If so, then you will have to be very courageous in doing God's will like Elijah.