

Elijah – Here and There

To The Brook Cherith

“Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, “Get away from here and turn eastward, and hide by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. And it will be that you shall drink from the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there.” (1 Kings 17:2-4)

1. Before he went to the brook, God told him to leave “here” and go “there.”
2. God had commanded the ravens to go to Cherith and they were already on the way. God provides before He guides.
3. If Elijah stayed *here*, he would miss God’s provision *there*.
4. God did not command the woman to provide for Elijah, nor did He speak to Elijah, until the brook had already dried up.
5. God did not speak before the water dried, nor did Elijah try to leave before he heard from God. His next drink would be dust.

To Zarepheth

“Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, “Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. See, I have commanded a widow there to provide for you.” (1 Kings 17:8-9)

1. Elijah’s time at the brook was over. God’s direction change was to move from “here” and go “there.”
2. God had already commanded the woman to provide for him. God continues to provide before He calls.

Elijah’s Public Ministry

1. After this, Elijah called down fire from heaven and slew 450 prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18:38-40). Then he outran Ahab’s chariot ahead of an incoming supernatural rainstorm (1 Kings 18:45-46).
2. Your difficult beginnings are used by God to grow your faith.
 - a. Your ministry moves you on to greater places and visibility.
 - b. Your character is shaped by your difficult beginnings.
 - c. Your attitude should remain at Cherith and Zarephath.

Obscurity Is Where God Prepares Us For Public Ministry

1. You do not always remain in one place forever.
2. Times come to change locations but requires the voice of God.
 - a. God always speaks at the right times.
 - b. God's voice guarantees He has sent provisions ahead.
3. Your location can change but your calling does not.
 - a. God never radically changes your ministry.
 - b. Every season of your ministry is a fine tuning of your calling.
 - c. Each day of your ministry leads to a brighter day.
 - d. Your call constantly moves you from the "good" to the "more acceptable" and finally to the "perfect will of God."
 - e. Your final phase of ministry is your "high calling", affecting more people with the least amount of effort.

Paul's Progress Came By Moving From "Here" To "There"

"But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus." (Galatians 1:15-17)

1. When called, Paul was sent away, hidden in the backside of the wilderness, began preaching, and was still unknown to the church leadership in Judaea for many years.
 - a. Paul was the second graduate of the wilderness. Moses was the first.
 - b. Moses has fame, position, money, and a future in Egypt. He forsook it all to follow God's call.
2. Before his salvation and call, Paul was "chief of sinners", highly known by Jews and Gentiles, believers and unbelievers.
 - a. God had to "sweat" Moses out of Moses before using him.
 - b. God had to sweat "Saul out of Paul" before using him.
 - c. Paul, late in his ministry, still considered himself "less than the least of all saints."
 - d. Paul eventually reached his "high calling."
 - e. Writing 2/3 of the New Testament, he changed the world from a prison cell.

Elijah Runs

"And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done (calling down fire), also how he had executed all the prophets with the sword. Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time." And when he saw that, he arose and ran for his life, and went to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there. But he himself went a day's journey into the

wilderness and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he prayed that he might die, and said, "It is (that's) enough! Now, Lord, take my life, for I am no better than my fathers!" Then as he lay and slept under a broom tree, suddenly an angel (Jesus) touched him, and said to him, "Arise and eat." Then he looked, and there by his head was a cake baked on coals, and a jar of water. So he ate and drank, and lay down again. And the angel of the Lord came back the second time, and touched him, and said, "Arise and eat, because the journey is too great for you." So he arose, and ate and drank; and went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights as far as Horeb, the mountain of God." (1 Kings 19:1-8)

1. This was three and a half years after he made a commandment that no dew or rain would come until he declared it.
2. He saw in that time:
 - a. God led him to Cherith and was fed by ravens.
 - b. The brook dried up.
 - c. God led him to Zarephath to be fed by a woman.
 - d. God multiplied her flour and oil.
 - e. Her son died and she blamed it on Elijah.
 - f. He raised her son from the dead.
 - g. He returned to ministry, called down fire, and slew 450 prophets.
 - h. Called down rain again and outran Ahab's chariot to Jezreel.
 - i. Threatened to be murdered by Jezebel.

Elijah, Why Are You "Here"?

"And there he went into a cave, and spent the night in that place; and behold, the word of the Lord came to him, and He said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" So he said, "I have been very zealous for the Lord God of hosts; for the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with he sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life." Then He said, "Go out, and stand on the mountain before the Lord." And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice." (1 Kings 19:9-12)

1. What led to the cave?
 - a. After killing 450 prophets of Baal, Elijah ran from the queen's note.
 - b. Elijah ran from "here" without a word from the Lord.
 - c. He fell down under a juniper tree. By God's grace he was fed and given water by an angel but continued to run.
2. But he ran in the wrong direction, away from God's call.
 - a. He ended up in a cave feeling sorry for himself.
 - b. Each time God had sent him "there", he was obedient.
 - c. Now he ran before God spoke and would not listen.

3. The purpose of the cave was to get Elijah to listen to the “still small voice” and not the noise of the wind that broke rocks, an earthquake, or fire.

“It was, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. Suddenly a voice came to him, and said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” And he said, “I have been very zealous for the Lord God of hosts; because the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life.” (1 Kings 19:13-14)

1. God continues to minister in grace to Elijah.
2. Elijah was tired, needed to be refreshed, and the Lord did it.
 - a. Elijah had been blessed by God and affliction arose each time.
 - b. Elijah got his eyes on the problems in between the answers.
 - c. He should have kept his eyes on answers between problems.
3. Elijah felt sorry for himself and wanted God to see it from his viewpoint.
4. Elijah would not listen and continued to pull for God’s sympathy.

“Then the Lord said to him: “Go, return (to there) on your way to the Wilderness of Damascus; and when you arrive, anoint Hazael as king over Syria. Also you will anoint Jehu the son of Nimshi as king over Israel. And Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel Meholah you shall anoint as prophet in your place.” (1 Kings 19:15-16)

1. God is long suffering, but not *infinite* suffering.
2. God will replace you if you become resistant too long.
3. What is important is the message, not the messenger.

Do You Wonder If You Are Still In God’s Will?

1. Was the last thing God told you to do, go *here*?
 - a. Has He spoken since?
 - b. Stay where you are, no matter how dry the river is.
2. Are you still *here* when you should be *there*?
 - a. Then what are you doing *here*?
 - b. The birds have already gone *there*.
3. Begin to remember the blessings between the problems.
4. Give yourself rest and use the cave to learn to hear the still small voice of God again.