

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, ELIJAH?

1 Kings 19:2-19 (Pew Bible 282)

Every one of us has been on top of the mountain – where God has blessed us beyond measure. Elijah's story gives us hope when we fall off the mountaintop.

We see 4 questions that Elijah answered to get through his "valley of death:"

1. *What are you doing NOW?*
2. *What are you doing NEW?*
3. *What are you doing HERE?*
4. *What are you doing NEXT?*

WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW? (v 2-5)

THE PAIN: *You can't go back to what is comfortable for you:*

- "Let's do what we did before." / "Give me the good ol' days!"
- "We've always done it like that." / "This worked last time..."

THE PLAN: *Get to the place where you can TRUST ME!*

- Leave everything behind / Get exhausted quickly! / Take a risk by trusting God

WHAT ARE YOU DOING NEW? (v 5-8)

THE PAIN: *When we follow God, we will experience difficulties.*

- Bad people will want to hurt us and good people will not understand.
 - But God always provides us with what we need, physically, emotionally, spiritually

THE PLAN: *TRUST ME for the journey ahead!*

- Elijah wanted COMFORT – food, drink, rest – to be comfortable.
- God wanted OBEDIENCE.
 - He is always preparing us – but especially in the down times.
 - God doesn't just want us to cope – but to THRIVE – ABUNDANTLY

2 Corinthians 5:5-7: *we walk by faith, not by sight, living our lives in a manner consistent with our confident belief in God's promises*

John 14:12-15: *If you ask Me anything in My name as My representative, I will do it.*

John 10:10b: *I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance to the full, till it overflows*

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? (9-14)

THE PAIN: *Our ways are not God's ways!*

- When we think we've figured out how God works, we've lost! (Isaiah 55:8-9)

THE PLAN: *Trust God, not what WE THINK of GOD!* Don't rely on your works – TRUST God fully.

Directed prayers work, direction prayers don't (Luke 22:41-42)

WHAT ARE YOU DOING NEXT? (v 15-17, 19)

THE PAIN: *Sometimes we are reluctant to do what God commands us to do next.* Why? It's not our plan.

Elisha and Naaman (2 Kings 5:10-11; 12b-14).

Peter and the overload (Luke 5:4-6)

THE PLAN: *God is never TAKEN BY SURPRISE. He has a plan all along!*

- God's ways are always different than we expect / God's ways are always greater than we can imagine

Jeremiah 29:4-7, 11-12 – I've got great plans for you – to prosper.

Discussion Questions

1. What about Dr. Bivins taught stood out to you?
2. Have you ever been discouraged in your faith like Elijah was? Why?
3. How did God help Elijah overcome his discouragement?
4. How can God help us overcome discouragement today?
5. What do you think God is calling you to do NEXT in your faith walk?
6. How can you prepare for the future struggles you will face when you do the thing God wants you to do next?
7. Join us Wednesday evening at 6:00 PM for our weekly prayer meeting. If you have a prayer request, please write it on the tear-off portion of your Worship Guide and place it in the offering basket.
We look forward to praying for you and with you!