

BE ANXIOUS FOR...?

April 5, 2020

“4 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again, rejoice! 5 Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. 6 Do not be anxious about anything. But in every situation by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:4-7

“3 Elijah was afraid and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there, 4 while he himself went on a day's journey into the wilderness. He came to a broom bush, sat down under it, and prayed that he might die. I've had enough, Take my life, I'm no better than my ancestors.” 1 Kings 19:3-4

4 MISTAKES ELIJAH MADE THAT WE SHOULD AVOID:

MISTAKE #1: We RUN ourselves into the ground.

“Elijah was afraid and ran for his life.” 1 Kings 19:3

MISTAKE #2: We SHUT people out.

“...he left his servant there...” 1 Kings 19:3

MISTAKE #3: We focus on the NEGATIVE.

“I've had enough, Lord...I'm no better than my ancestors...” 1 Kings 19:4

MISTAKE #4: We FORGET God.

“11 The Lord said to Elijah, ‘Go out and stand on the mountain, in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.’ Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountain apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord. But the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. 12 After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper.” 1 Kings 19:11-12

KEY OBSERVATION: God was not in the remarkable. God was in the ORDINARY.

KEY TRUTH: God whispers because He's CLOSE.

“The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.” Psalm 145:18

“Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.” Hebrews 13:6

“And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:20

“And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.” Romans 8:28

“35 Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? 36 As the Scriptures say, ‘For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.’ 37 No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us. 38 And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. 39 No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 8:35-39

BOTTOM LINE: Most of what we worry about is NOT going to happen, which means we are anxious for nothing.

"Do not be anxious about anything...". Philippians 4:6a

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3 THINGS TO REMEMBER THIS WEEK:

#1: Remember that no matter what you go through, God will go through it **WITH YOU**.

"When you go through deep waters, I will be with you. When you pass through the rivers of difficulty, you will not drown. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned up. It will not consume you." Isaiah 43:2

#2: Remember that this is not the **END** of the story.

"8 We often suffer, but we're never completely crushed. And even when we don't know what to do, we never give up. 9 In times of trouble, God is with us. And when we're knocked down, we get up again... 14 because we know God raised the Lord back to life. And just as He raised Jesus, He will also raise us back to life and will bring us into His presence together." 2 Corinthians 4:8-9, 14

"Then God will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death, and no more mourning, and no more crying, and no more pain, for the old order of things will pass away." Revelation 21:4

#3: Remember that God wants to use **YOU** to help others.