

A Second Wind 1 Kings 16:29-35

Understanding the times of Elijah: 'sins of past leaders trivial'...Jeroboam story (1Kings 11:26ff)-led people into idolatry, appointed his own religious leaders, even after healing, he continued to market false religion.

Ahab: 31-33...continued down path of Jeroboam, but worse...married Jezebel, engaged and promoted idolatry...Asherah pole to honor the goddess of fertility. (picture of Asherah pole)

v34...rebuilding of Jericho story, loss of sons of the builder (a refusal to acknowledge God's word or His authority. People just did what they wanted without regard for God...changed their beliefs to align with their sin!

Bad times...which were only about to get worse.

1Kings 17:1...the setup, enter Elijah and his word from God

This is a story about a great man of God who would need a Second Wind, just like all of us.

I. The People Who Need a Second Wind 1Kings 17/18, Where the Power of God flows in dark times

1. God's Children who are in the Flow v1-24 (boldness before Ahab, following God's lead, Widow of Zarephath and her son)

2. God's Children Who are faithful in His silence. 1 Kings 18:1

3. God's Children who are encouragers. (to the widow, Obadiah, who saved 100 prophets while working for Ahab) Sometimes, giving away of yourself, over time, empties you.

4. God's Children who trust the protection of God. 1Kings 18:16-19
There is a story of a missionary in North Africa whose name is Frederick Nolan. It has been written about in many books and internet blogs. "Tell Me a Story," is an internet blog

written by Mark Edge. Here is how the blog related the story.

"Nolan was fleeing from his enemies during a time of persecution in North African. Vigilantly pursued by his foes, Nolan was running out of places to hide. Finally, bone-tired he came upon a small cave. Hiding inside, he expected his enemies to find him. Certain he was awaiting his death, he saw a spider begin to weave a web. Within minutes, the insect had woven an intricate web across the mouth of the cave. Shortly thereafter, his hunters arrived. At first, they suspected Nolan had entered the cave. Then, they considered how it would have been impossible for him to have entered without destroying the web. So they left. Nolan escaped his potential captors. Later, contemplating his fate, he wrote, "Where God is, a spider's web is like a wall. Where God is not, a wall is like a spider's web.""

5. God's Children who aren't intimidated by men.

6. God's Children who boldly challenged waywardly passive.

1Kings 18:21 When they heard Elijah, they said nothing.

7. God's children who dare to ask God to do the impossible.

1 Kings 18:36ff

8. God's Children who have been faithful and persevered in prayer.

1 Kings 18:41ff...praying on Mt Carmel for the rain.

9. God's Children who have experienced His powerful presence.

1Kings 18:46

10. God's Children who have witnessed God's miracles in and through their lives.

*The people who really need a Second Wind are those who have lived and breathed in the Wind of God, experiencing great emotional highs and yet are brought into a crisis of faith.

Key Thought: *You can't live on the highs of yesterday...they do not have the ability to sustain you in the now.*

Are you living on the fumes of yesterday's spiritual highs? Are you dry but still serving, still expecting? Sometimes, it's the very servants of God who are in desperate need of a Second Wind...but not available until they experience...

II. The Path that Leads to the Wall.

1Kings 19, where the wheels come off the bus.

5 Choices that lead and slam us to the wall:

1. Choosing to believe the words of others rather than God.

1Kings 19:1-3...Jezebel. The result of believing others is always fear: fear of the future, fear that God will not show up again, He's run out of miracles for me, fear that I am not enough to sustain what God has begun, fear of failure, etc. "Elijah was afraid."

2. Choosing to run away from the battle line. "...and ran for his life."

3. Choosing isolation instead of community. He left his servant and went further into the desert alone...what about 100 hidden prophets.

4. Choosing to over expend ourselves emotionally and physically. v4-5 'went another day's journey into the desert'

5. Choosing self-focused prayer only. Self-focused prayer either reveals complete selfishness or depression...no more energy to think about others, including the Kingdom of God...his prayer went: "I've had enough, Lord, I'm done! I'm no better than any of my ancestors, I've failed like them! Take my life!"

III. The Plan to Capture a Second Wind.

7 Principles to Practice:

1. Recharge your batteries.
1Kings 19:5-7 Food and Rest!

2. Remain on the journey.

1 Kings 19:8 40 days and nights, a long time...regardless how long it takes, regardless, keep on, keeping on.

3. Rivet your hearing. 1

Kings 19:9 “What are you doing here, Elijah?” Get yourself in a posture to hear from God. Listen. Get alone and be quiet. Get in the Word, and get ready to hear from God...

4. Reveal your pain. 1Kings

19:10 Even if your perspective is not completely accurate, our transparent recounting of our pain reveals where we really are. That’s healthy! **Don’t stuff it, share it, especially with God!**

“I’ve been faithful. They have not. I feel all alone. Others want to destroy me.” Yes he had been faithful, but others had too. He felt alone because he acted alone, but really wasn’t all alone. Not everyone wanted to destroy him...just a crazy queen who would soon be dinner for the dogs.

5. Ready yourself to hear from God. 1Kings 19:11-13 Let God show you what you need to hear...how He wants to say it or reveal it...Let Him show you His character and person and provision how He wants to do it. Don't look for another cave experience to duplicate Elijah's path...be open for Him to set you up to show you personally what YOU need to hear.

Elijah learned: *God is not in the Big Show and Hype; He's a quiet whisperer (Ps 46:10) Maybe that's why you haven't heard Him; you're waiting for a loud voice!*

*God doesn't want us to stay in fear.
God still wants to use you, even with your issues unresolved, and your inability to answer His questions directly... 'what are you doing here?'*

6. Run to the next thing. 1Kings 19:15 Not 'your next thing' but His next thing...This is where we get into trouble. We often decide what the next thing of God should be. We develop a plan, a strategy, a vision, a project to 'busy ourselves' from going deeper with God. We then ask Him to

bleed our mess and find ourselves once again in deep depression and failure... We got active, but failed to listen first.

“Go back the way you came.”

Sometimes the way forward is backward!

7. Remember it's not all on your back. 1Kings 19:17-18 There are others He wants you to invite others to the battle... You are not alone! You have the Lord, and there are others who are being invited by God, via your words to join in His Kingdom's advancement.