

Don't Take The Bait

The Trap of Ignoring ~ week 3

1 Kings 19

1 Kings 19:9-10 (NIV) *There he went into a cave and spent the night. And the word of the LORD came to him: "What are you doing here, Elijah?"*

He replied, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too."

When you avoid offense:

- 1. You take responsibility for a BATTLE that is not yours.**
- 2. You put yourself in a CAVE.**
- 3. You feel SPECIAL in the worst possible way.**
- 4. You make the offense BIGGER.**
- 5. You let the NOISE AROUND you overpower God's voice.**

1 Kings 19:11-12 (NIV) *The LORD said, "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 mountains 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. After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper.*

- 6. You FORFEIT THE ROLE God has given you.**

1 Kings 19:15-16 (NIV) *The LORD said to him, "Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael king over Aram. Also, anoint Jehu son of Nimshi king over Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed you as prophet.*

Challenge: Turn the offense into OFFENSE.

Step 1: Confront in PRIVATE.

Matthew 18:15 *"If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over."*

Step 2: Bring in a NEUTRAL MEDIATOR.

Matthew 18:16 *"But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses."*

Step 3: Practice INTERVENTION.

Matthew 18:17 *"If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector."*