



Miracle of Miracles: He Responds (*To My Cry*)

1 Kings 19:3-15, Mark 1:35, Romans 8:28

1 Kings 19 records where Elijah is responding to a tough assignment from the Lord! Essentially, in the opening couple of verses of the chapter, Elijah has received word about a threat on his life by Jezebel! We pick it up in verse 3...

1 Kings 19:3

3 Elijah was afraid and ran for his life...

- Like Elijah, we can run from something in our life because of fear!
 - We have and will again experience persecution and discouragement in life and our leadership!
 - We're spiritual targets and we can and do get beat up in the battlefield of life!
 - *What are you running from?*

The natural pathway in life when facing a trial is to run towards isolation.

You might be thinking, wait, we're studying a gospel and don't we see Jesus heading off into the wilderness alone...? *Yes, he did... BUT...*

Notice the difference here between Jesus and Elijah in their moments alone:

Luke 5:16

But JESUS would withdraw to desolate places AND PRAY.

Mark 1:35

And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, JESUS departed and went out to a desolate place, and there HE.... PRAYED

Matthew 14:23

And after he had dismissed the crowds, Jesus went up on the mountain by himself TO PRAY. When evening came, he was there alone.

Do you see a different theme?

- Jesus' times of solitude were always informed by faith where He sought richer intimacy with the Father!
 - Whereas, what was seen here in Elijah is isolation entirely induced by FEAR!
 - Jesus' solitude is always good because it is *informed by faith!*
 - Our isolation is always bad because it is *induced by fear!*

If you choose not to maintain a rhythm of faith informed solitude, your life will inevitably become crippled through insecure isolation.

- Elijah feels undone and exposed because he's lost sight of what God wants him to do!
 - The only thing that can improve Elijah's outlook is an encounter with God – he needed to hear from God!
 - **The same is true for us – we need to begin this year with a powerful encounter with Jesus!**
 - In God's sovereignty, this was one of the lowest points of Elijah's life but would culminate in one of the highest points in God's plan.

In a miracle moment, God sends an angel to awaken Elijah from his sleep and provide food for him!

- Who is "placing baked bread" in front of your life?
 - Listen to these people that God has placed around you...
 - When our lives become more ruled by a fear of man than by a fear of God, we build barriers around our hearts!
 - When we live in the fear of man, we build fences to ensure that our private isolation isn't noticed within our desired public persona.
 - *Men & Women, dare to reveal the reality of our inner world to God and those that love you!!*

Jump down to 1 Kings 19:11

- The miracle of miracles! God comes close!
 - It may be the simplest thing in the world, but the most difficult thing at the same time.... move to the front of your cave!
- Be the kind of person in 2016 that is aware enough, awake enough, and slows down enough to listen to the God who speaks, shapes, serves and saves!

Maybe it's time for us to do something drastically different this year!!

- Take God at his word, even when it feels uncomfortable or vulnerable or unfamiliar.
 - *Let go of your past and pursue His Spirit like never before.*