

THE TAKE AWAY

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Sunday, July 04, 2021

Message Summary

In this week's message, Pastor Mark Haywood unpacked the story of the prophet Elijah from 1 Kings 18-19. Elijah had just demonstrated incredible power of God by destroying the prophets of Ba'al supernaturally. When queen Jezebel found out what had happened, she threatened to kill Elijah. And despite what Elijah has just seen God do, the wondrous power he had just witnessed, he became afraid when threatened and he ran away to hide. But God meets him there in his shame. He feeds him, cares for him, and directs him to a quiet place on the mountain to talk to him. He encourages him in his fear and confusion, and God gives him a plan. When our life gets messy, when things don't look like how we think they should, God has an answer. He will speak into our fear, our confusion, our anger, our shame, even our doubt. When we don't know what to do, God knows exactly what to do. But if you are looking for a sign of God's next move in your circumstances, you will grow discouraged when it doesn't happen when you want or look the way you think it should. Instead, look for a change in your own heart. God will whisper to your heart restoration and healing. No matter what you have lost in this season. No matter what you have felt as a result. No matter how messy your life may feel right now. God has a plan for restoration for your life, for your church, for your community. If you turn back to God, if you seek His voice, God will fill your life with His presence and His power. He's not done yet!

Pastor Mark Haywood: *"Get back to where God has called you to be. Put the mantle back on, because we have a job to do, Church!"*

Key Scriptures

- **Read 1 Kings 18-19** which contains that story of Elijah killing the prophets of Ba'al, fleeing Jezebel, and what God shows Elijah in the quiet place where he was hiding.
- **[Zechariah 14:9 NIV]** 9 The LORD will be king over the whole earth. On that day there will be one LORD, and his name the only name.

Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think real change starts from the inside-out?
2. What does your alone time with God look like?
3. What will happen in your life when you have an encounter with God?
4. What will happen in our church when we are open to an encounter with God?

Life Application

This week as you study the key scriptures, consider what Pastor Mark said, "If you are looking for a sign of God's next move in your circumstances, you will grow discouraged when it doesn't happen when you want or look the way you think it should. Instead, look for a change in your own heart." Real change begins in you, and it will manifest from the inside out. Just like Elijah, God will meet you in the quiet place of your life where you can hear Him speak to you. It's time to start praying that you will have an encounter – a real, life-changing encounter – with God. But you have to make room for Him to speak to you. So ask yourself this week, "Where do I meet with God?" Yes, you can talk to God anywhere. But where is your place that is dedicated to Him, and Him alone? If you don't have that place, it's time to find it. And once you find it, sit still in that place and trust God to start speaking and to start changing you – from the inside-out.