



Sermon Guide: Elijah: Unmet Expectations

01/04/26

Text(s): 1 Kings 19:1-8

Big Idea: *God restores discouraged hearts by drawing near, offering rest, truth, and renewed perspective.*

Summary of the Sermon - In the account of Elijah, we see how faithful obedience can still lead to discouragement when hoped-for outcomes don't come to pass, and how unmet expectations can exhaust the heart and distort our vision. Yet, God meets Elijah with His compassionate presence—providing rest, speaking gently through the whisper of His Word, and restoring perspective—reminding us that He is not finished with the story.

Discussion Questions

1. Where have you experienced unmet expectations in your life, and how have they affected your heart or faith?
2. Which part of Elijah's discouragement do you resonate with most—fear, isolation, exhaustion, or self-condemnation? Why?
3. How do you typically respond when what you hoped God would do does not happen?
4. What does God's provision of rest, bread, and water for Elijah teach you about how He cares for the whole person?
5. Why do you think God chose to speak to Elijah in a whisper rather than through spectacle or power?
6. In seasons of discouragement, what makes it difficult for you to be honest with God?
7. What does it mean for you personally that "God is not finished with your story"?
8. How do the promises of future glory and resurrection shape the way you view present suffering or disappointment?
9. As you look ahead, what would it look like to trust that God's presence, and the whisper of his word, is enough for you in the season you are in?