

Elijah

The man who took a stand!

2.25.24

A few terms.....

Elijah

Ahab.....

Jezebel

Baal

I. Taking a stand

Elijah's "stands"

The pronouncement of drought

The personal confrontation with Ahab

The confrontation of the people of Israel

The confrontation with the prophets of Baal

The pronouncement of the future of Ahab and his family

Common denominators in taking a stand.

--We must take stands based on scripture.

1 Kings 17:2 Then the word of the LORD came to him:

Convictions are not merely beliefs we hold; they are those beliefs that hold us in their grip.

Albert Mohler

--We must place doing over feeling.

Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
and do not rely on your own understanding.

II. **The aftermath of taking a stand**

Anger and aggression by others.

1 Kings 19:2 So Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "May the gods punish me and do so severely if I don't make your life like the life of one of them by this time tomorrow!"

Fear

1 Kings 19:3 Then Elijah became afraid^[a] and immediately ran for his life.

Loneliness

1 Kings 19:4 but he went on a day's journey into the wilderness. He sat down under a broom tree and prayed that he might die. He said, "I have had enough! LORD, take my life, for I'm no better than my ancestors." ⁵ Then he lay down and slept under the broom tree.

Depression

1 Kings 19:4 He said, "I have had enough! LORD, take my life, for I'm no better than my ancestors." ⁵ Then he lay down and slept under the broom tree.

Self-pity and over exaggeration

1 Kings 19:10 He replied, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God of Armies, but the Israelites have abandoned your covenant, torn down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are looking for me to take my life."

III. **God's response after we take a stand**

God will be present for us

I don't always feel His presence. But God's promises do not depend upon my feelings; they rest upon His integrity.

R. C. Sproul

1 Kings 19:11 Then he said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the LORD's presence."

At that moment, the LORD passed by. A great and mighty wind was tearing at the mountains and was shattering cliffs 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. ¹² After the earthquake there was a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire there was a voice, a soft whisper.

God will provide for us

1 Kings 17:4 You are to drink from the wadi. I have commanded the ravens to provide for you there."

God will provide people to encourage us.

1 Kings 19:18 But I will leave seven thousand in Israel—every knee that has not bowed to Baal and every mouth that has not kissed him."

IV. **The results of taking a stand**

For Elijah

Ahab was humbled

1 Kings 21:²⁷ When Ahab heard these words, he tore his clothes, put sackcloth over his body, and fasted. He lay down in sackcloth and walked around subdued.

Baal was removed

2 Kings 10:²⁶ They brought out the pillar of the temple of Baal and burned it, ²⁷ and they tore down the pillar of Baal. Then they tore down the temple of Baal and made it a latrine—which it still is today.

Poor leaders were removed

2 Kings 9:³⁴ Then he went in, ate and drank, and said, "Take care of this cursed woman and bury her, since she's a king's daughter."

Elijah was honored in his "exit"

II Kings 2: ¹¹ As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire with horses of fire suddenly appeared and separated the two of them. Then Elijah went up into heaven in the whirlwind. ¹² As Elisha watched, he kept crying out, "My father, my father, the chariots and horsemen of Israel!"

For us

People get helped.

²²The LORD heard Elijah's cry, and the boy's life returned to him, and he lived. ²³Elijah picked up the child and carried him down from the room into the house. He gave him to his mother and said, "Look, your son is alive!"

God gets promoted

²⁴Then the woman said to Elijah, "Now I know that you are a man of God and that the word of the LORD from your mouth is the truth."

We get blessed

Close:

If you can trust God to save you for eternity, you can trust him to lead you for a lifetime.

David Platt