



When We Can't, God Can!

1 Kings 19:1-18

God can meet us smack-dab in the middle of doubt!

Verses 1-5:

Text Message:

- Prior to this, Elijah experienced an unprecedented spiritual victory over 450 prophets of Baal (the Canaanite storm god).
- Yet when Jezebel swears by the same [defeated] gods, Elijah's faith falters.

- Notice how different translations state Elijah's response:
 - “Then he was ***afraid***...” (ESV, HCSB, NASB, NIV, NLT)
 - “Then he ***saw***...” (KJV, MESSAGE, NKJV)
- Here's why: The Hebrew word can be translated both ways!
- *Isn't it true that we fear based on what we see?*
- Elijah's fear is not irrational- Jezebel was gaining a track record for putting to death prophets of the LORD (18:13).
- Elijah ran. Jonah would later run. We can be thankful that if *doubt/darkness/disillusionment/discouragement/distress* causes us to run and hide, we can't outrun God and he meets us where we are! What a good God!
- The same Hebrew word is translated first as “messenger” in Verse 1 and “angel” in Verse 5. Both have something to say.
- *Which messenger will we hear loudest?*

God can provide what we need even if it's not what we want!

Verses 4-8; 9-12:

Text Message:

- Elijah heard the message of wicked Queen Jezebel loud and clear yet seems to be oblivious to how God speaks in Verse 5.
- There's little to no recognition of the divine when he is awakened by an angel and provided a hot meal!
- Here Elijah does what we all should do in times like this: he prays. Elijah prays for death, but God provides him life!
- Elijah says, "LORD, take my life." God answers with two nice naps and two square meals!
- In other words, God provides him with some "self-care."
- Sometimes, the most spiritual thing we can do is get some needed rest! *Remember, even Jesus needed naps!*

- Elijah wanted what we all want in times like this- a great big move of God [represented by wind, earthquake, fire].
- However, God still chooses to speak in a “low whisper.”

God can use doubt to lead us in a new direction!

Verses 13-18:

Text Message:

- At this point, Elijah is still dealing with his problem, and lets God know twice that he alone is left (Verses 10, 14).
- Notice God doesn't immediately set the record straight with Elijah or heal his doubt and despair (this would come later).
- Instead, God provides a solution Elijah didn't see coming.
- The bigger picture of what is at stake is more than Elijah's life but the ongoing worship of Baal among the Israelites.

- Elijah felt alone (Verses 10, 14) and outnumbered, and unable to care of the problem of Baal worship in Israel.
- However, God would take care of the problem of Baal worship in **God's way** and **God's timing** (Verses 15-17).

Which of these “God can” statements stand out to you and what will you take away from this message today?

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