

MOMENTUM

Moving Forward!

MOMENTUM COMES WITH PAINS!

-Emotions are a real thing! Feelings aren't always true!

Story about an OT Super hero named Elijah!

1 Kings 16-18 The people of Israel were worshipping other Gods!

Ahab had been king of Israel for 22 years.

1 Kings 16:30-32 Ahab son of Omri did more evil in the eyes of the LORD than any of those before him. ³¹ He not only considered it trivial to commit the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, but he also married Jezebel daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians, and began to serve Baal and worship him. ³² He set up an altar for Baal in the temple of Baal that he built in Samaria.

The prophet Elijah was going to call his people back to God!

In 1 Kings 18.....God told Elijah to go present himself to King Ahab and rebuke him!

Vrs 17 The king says "Is that you, you troubler of Israel?"

1 Kings 18:19-24 Now summon the people from all over Israel to meet me on Mount Carmel. And bring the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table."

²⁰ So Ahab sent word throughout all Israel and assembled the prophets on Mount Carmel. ²¹ Elijah went before the people and said, "How long will you waver between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him."

But the people said nothing. ²² Then Elijah said to them, "I am the only one of the LORD's prophets left, but Baal has four hundred and fifty prophets. ²³ Get two bulls for us. Let Baal's prophets choose one for themselves, and let them cut it into pieces and put it on the wood but not set fire to it. I will prepare the other bull and put it on the wood but not set fire to it. ²⁴ Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the LORD. The god who answers by fire—he is God." Then all the people said, "What you say is good."

IT WAS ON! -LIKE A ROCKY MOVIE!!!!

-2 oxes.....cut up on the altars! Presented to the gods!

-Which ever one lights up on fire wins!

1 Kings 18:26-27 So they took the bull given them and prepared it. Then they called on the name of Baal from morning till noon. “Baal, answer us!” they shouted. But there was no response; no one answered. And they danced around the altar they had made.

27 At noon Elijah began to taunt them. “Shout louder!” he said. “Surely he is a god! Perhaps he is deep in thought, or busy, or traveling. Maybe he is sleeping and must be awakened.”

-ELIJAH IS TALKING SOME SMACK!!

THEY TRIED ALL AFTERNOON INTO THE EVENING!

They respond by cutting themselves and adding their own blood to the sacrifice.

Elijah gets his altar ready.

-12 stones around it to represent the 12 tribes!

-10-30 gallons of water each (4 large jars.....doused it 3 times!)

-120-360 gallons.....4 bath tubs of water!

1 Kings 18:37-38 Answer me, LORD, answer me, so these people will know that you, LORD, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again.” ³⁸ Then the fire of the LORD fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench.

HUGE VICTORY!!! THEY KILLED ALL THE FALSE PROPHETS!!!!

-SHOULD BE FILLED WITH FAITH!!!

INSTEAD: FAITH WAS REPLACED WITH FEAR!

1 Kings 19:1-4 Now Ahab told Jezebel everything Elijah had done and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. ² So Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah to say, “May the gods deal with me, be it ever so severely, if by this time tomorrow I do not make your life like that of one of them.”

³ Elijah was afraid and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there, ⁴ while he himself went a day’s journey into the wilderness. He came to a broom bush, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. “I have had enough, LORD,” he said. “Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors.”

FROM CONFIDENCE TO DEFEAT!!!

DO YOU EVER FEEL LIKE THAT?

ON TOP.....THEN COMPLETELY DEFLATED!

1) DON'T FORGET THE VICTORY!

-NOTICE: I said don't "FORGET" the victory! THE VICTORY IS WON!

-THE DEVIL CAN'T TAKE OUR VICTORY.....SO HE TAKES OUR JOY!

-Jezebel wanted to intimidate him.....deflate him.....defeat him and his God!

-She sent a message to him and gave him 24 hours!

-She didn't want him dead.....she wanted to let FEAR strip him of his victory!

*He just defeated 850 prophets and now he is scared of 1 woman??

INSTEAD: FAITH WAS REPLACED WITH FEAR!

KEY (the devil know's he can't win.....so he will try to make us LOOSE by giving up!)

THE DEVIL CAN'T TAKE OUR VICTORY.....SO HE TAKES OUR JOY!

-Elijah had given up!!

-FEAR had overcome him.

*THE TRUE ENEMY WASN'T JEZABEL!

Ephesians 6:12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

JESUS TAUGHT ABOUT HIS ENEMY!

John 10:10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

JESUS gives LIFE.....The DEVIL leads to DEATH

1 Peter 5:8-9 Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 9 Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

-Battle is all around the world!

-verse 9 **Resist him, standing firm in the faith,**

1) DON'T FORGET THE VICTORY!

2) DON'T GIVE UP GROUND!

-Elijah had defeated 850 false prophets!

-The people of God SAW THE VICTORY & THE POWER OF GOD!

*NOW THE DEVIL WAS TRYING TO TAKE IT ALL BACK!

Ephesians 6:13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

CELEBRATE THE "GAIN" NOT THE "GAP"

-GAIN -movement forward! PROGRESS!

-GAP -where you want to be!

FROM CONFIDENCE TO DEFEAT!!!

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³ Elijah was afraid and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there, ⁴ while he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness. He came to a broom bush, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. "I have had enough, LORD," he said. "Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors."

1 Kings 19:5-7 And he lay down and slept under a broom tree. And behold, an angel touched him and said to him, "Arise and eat." ⁶ And he looked, and behold, there was at his head a cake baked on hot stones and a jar of water. And he ate and drank and lay down again. ⁷ And the angel of the Lord came again a second time and touched him and said, "Arise and eat, for the journey is too great for you."

1 Kings 19:8-10 And he arose and ate and drank, and went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb, the mount of God. There he came to a cave and lodged in it. And behold, the word of the Lord came to him, and he said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁰ He said, "I have been very jealous for the Lord, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away."

-Even after a 40 day journey.....he was still in the dumps.

-God changed his environment- moved him to Horeb, the mount of God

-POSITIVE PLACE! "Change of pace, change of place....change of perspective"

- 1) DON'T FORGET THE VICTORY!
- 2) DON'T GIVE UP GROUND!
- 3) DON'T FORGET THE SOURCE!
 "SUPER-NATURAL" I DO THE "NATURAL"HE DOES THE "SUPER"

Zechariah 4:6 Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the Lord Almighty.

-GOD WAS ABOUT TO SHOW UP FOR ELIJAH!

1 Kings 19:11-12 And he said, "Go out and stand on the mount before the Lord." And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore the mountains and broke in pieces the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. And after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. ¹² And after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire the sound of a low whisper.

-GOD SPOKE TO HIM IN THAT GENTLE WHISPER....GAVE HIM HOPE!

1 Kings 19:13 And when Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. And behold, there came a voice to him and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

-SAME QUESTION AS BEFORE (VERSE 9)

-SAME PROBLEM AS BEFORE (VERSE 10) *nothing had changed

1 Kings 19:14 He said, "I have been very jealous for the Lord, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away."

INTERESTING: Even after a 40 day journey to the Holy Mount of God.....
 and the still small voice of God speaking to him.....

Elijah still focused on his problem

GOD MET HIM WHERE HE WAS AT!!!

GOD GAVE HIM A PLAN!

-He told him the plan of who he wanted to make king!

-He told Elijah exactly what he needed to do next!

PRACTICAL: GOD WILL MEET YOU WHERE YOU ARE AT!

.....AND REMIND YOU OF WHO HE IS!

KEEP MOMENTUM:

- 1) DON'T FORGET THE VICTORY!
- 2) DON'T GIVE UP GROUND! GAIN.....NOT THE GAP
- 3) DON'T FORGET THE SOURCE!

-Honestly.....Elijah was tired and his emotions were dried up!

-Stop telling God how big your problems are.....start telling your problems how BIG your God is!

Isaiah 40:21-31 Do you not know?

Have you not heard?

Has it not been told you from the beginning?

Have you not understood since the earth was founded?

**22 He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth,
and its people are like grasshoppers.**

**He stretches out the heavens like a canopy,
and spreads them out like a tent to live in.**

**23 He brings princes to naught
and reduces the rulers of this world to nothing.**

**24 No sooner are they planted,
no sooner are they sown,
no sooner do they take root in the ground,
than he blows on them and they wither,
and a whirlwind sweeps them away like chaff.**

**25 "To whom will you compare me?
Or who is my equal?" says the Holy One.**

**26 Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens:
Who created all these?**

**He who brings out the starry host one by one
and calls forth each of them by name.
Because of his great power and mighty strength,
not one of them is missing.**

**27 Why do you complain, Jacob?
Why do you say, Israel,
"My way is hidden from the Lord;
my cause is disregarded by my God"?**

**28 Do you not know?
Have you not heard?
The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He will not grow tired or weary,
and his understanding no one can fathom.**

29 He gives strength to the weary

and increases the power of the weak.

**³⁰ Even youths grow tired and weary,
and young men stumble and fall;**

**³¹ but those who hope in the Lord
will renew their strength.**

**They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint.**