

LONELY PLACES - Part 2

Elijah Runs

Randy Hageman

Part of Lonely Places

March 20, 2021

Elijah Runs

March 21, 2021

Randy Hageman

Being alone is an objective ____, while feeling lonely is a subjective ____, and the two don't have to be linked together.

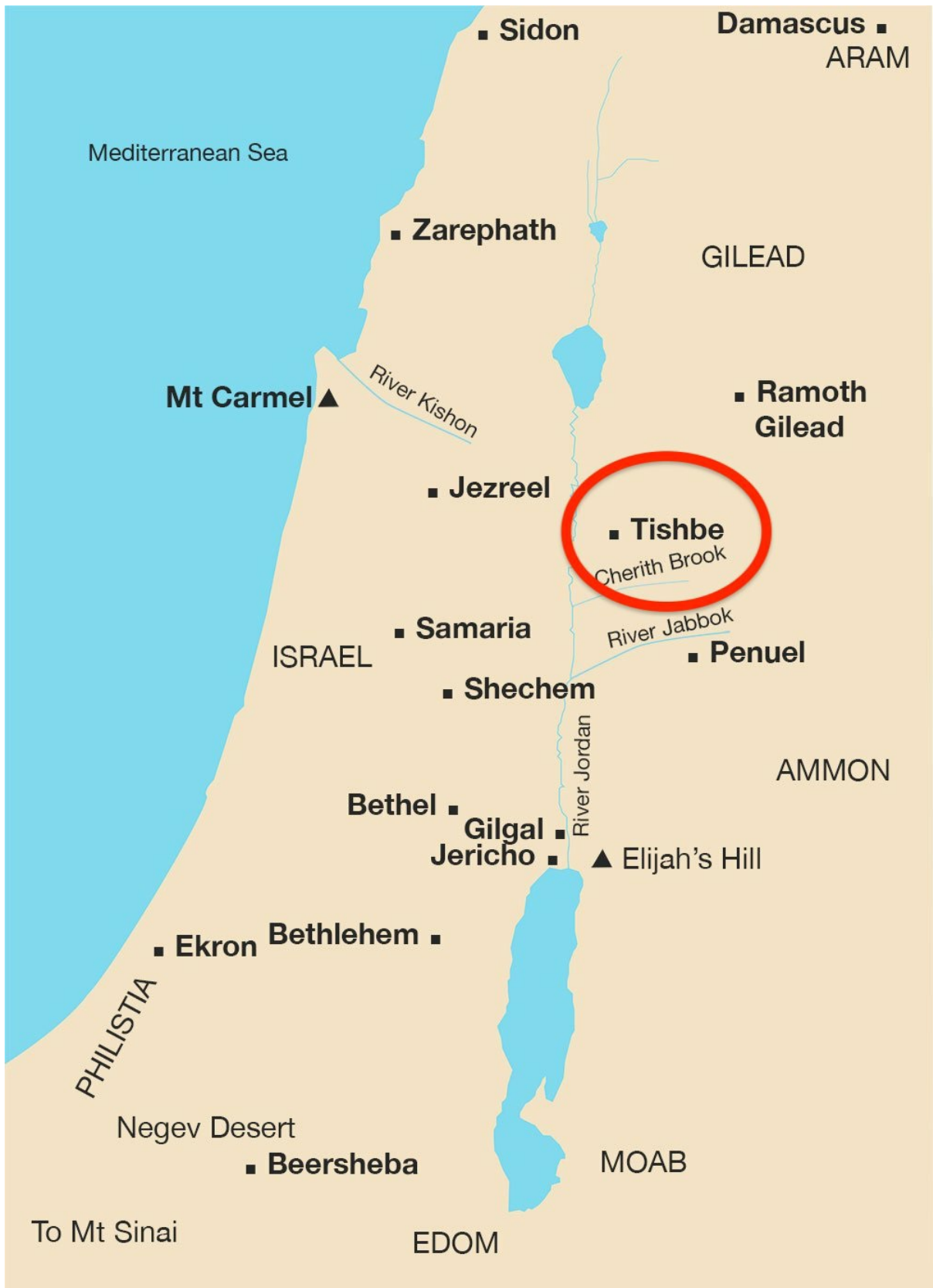
Being alone doesn't necessarily mean you're lonely, nor does being around people mean you're not. Loneliness is a feeling only the person experiencing it can truly identify.

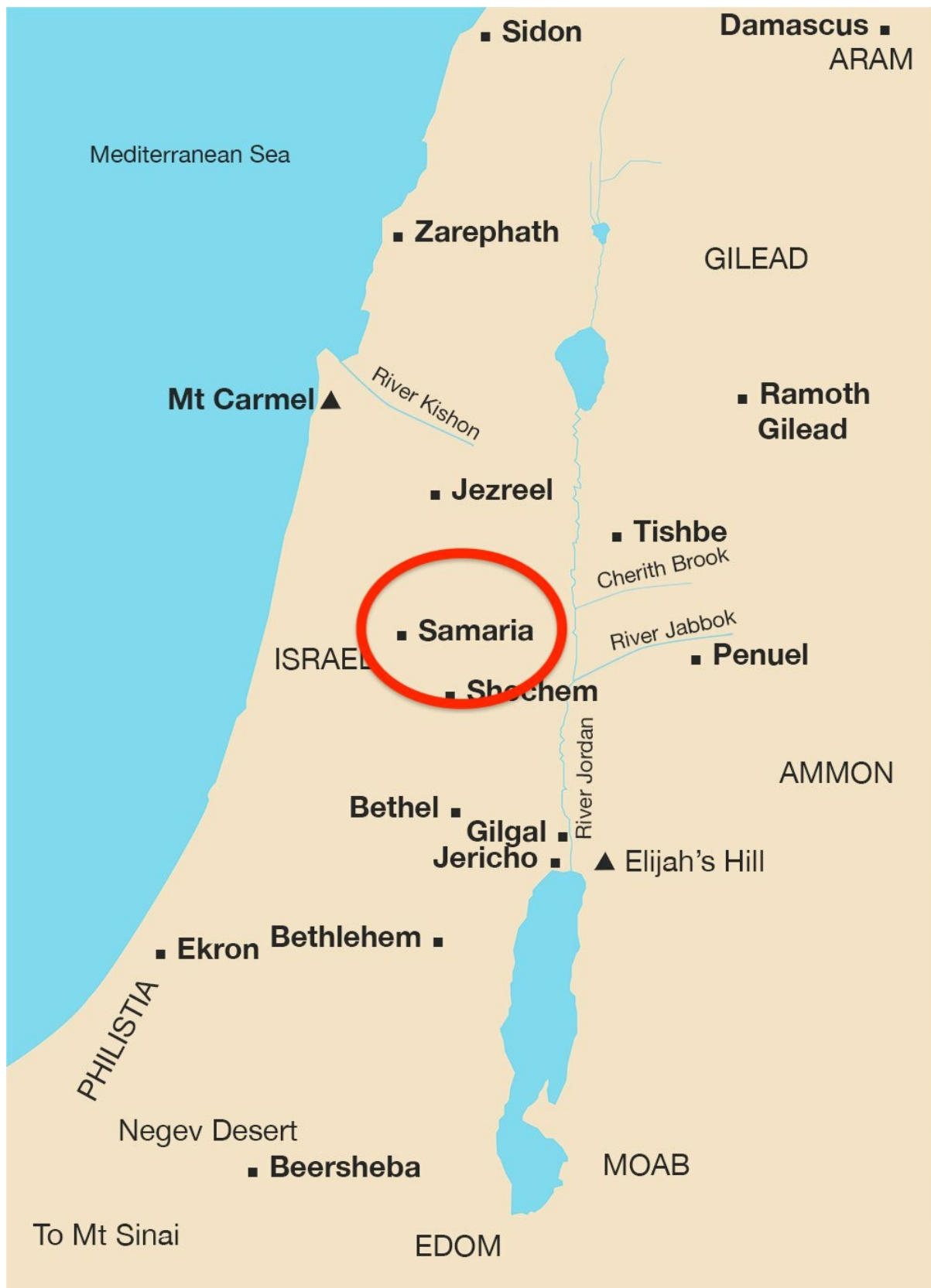
—Dr. Carla Perissinotto

Jesus: ... 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'

—Matthew 27:46 (ESV)

The prophet Elijah faced ____ very different and unique times of being alone.





In the thirty-eighth year of Asa king of Judah, Ahab the son of Omri began to reign over Israel, and Ahab the son of Omri reigned over Israel in Samaria twenty-two years. And Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD, more than all who were before him.

—1 Kings 16:29-30 (ESV)

Ahab married Jezebel, the daughter of the king of the pagan Sidonians, and he began to follow the ways of his wife, worshipping other ____.

Now Elijah, who was from Tishbe in Gilead, told King Ahab, 'As surely as the LORD, the God of Israel, lives—the God I serve—there will be no dew or rain during the next few years until I give the word!'

—1 Kings 17:1 (NLT)

Sometimes ____ sends His people to lonely places, to wilderness, whether for protection, or time to reflect and pray, or time to learn.

'Depart from here and turn eastward and hide yourself by the brook Cherith, which is east of the Jordan. You shall drink from the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there.'

—1 Kings 17:3-4 (ESV)



God takes ___ of us when He leads us into these kinds of places, though it's often in ways we could not have imagined.



Whatever God ___ is always exactly what we need and can use, regardless of how we may feel about how we received it.



Then the word of the LORD came to him, 'Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. Behold, I have commanded a widow there to feed you.'
—1 Kings 17:8-9 (ESV)





And Elijah said to her, 'Do not fear; go and do as you have said. But first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterward make something for yourself and your son. For thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, "The jar of flour shall not be spent, and the jug of oil shall not be empty, until the day that the LORD sends rain upon the earth."' And she went and did as Elijah said. And she and he and her household ate for many days. The jar of flour was not spent, neither did the jug of oil become empty, according to the word of the LORD that he spoke

by Elijah.

—1 Kings 17:13-16 (ESV)

And the woman said to Elijah, 'Now I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the LORD in your mouth is truth.'

—1 Kings 17:24 (ESV)

If God has called us out to a lonely place, He has a purpose, and part of that may be ___ us for how He intends to use us.

After many days the word of the LORD came to Elijah, in the third year, saying, 'Go, show yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain upon the earth.' So Elijah went to show himself to Ahab. Now the famine was severe in Samaria.

—1 Kings 18:1-2 (ESV)

When Ahab saw Elijah, Ahab said to him, 'Is it you, you troubler of Israel?' And he answered, 'I have not troubled Israel, but you have, and your father's house, because you have abandoned the commandments of the LORD and followed the Baals. Now therefore send and gather all Israel to me at Mount Carmel, and the 450 prophets of Baal and the 400 prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table.'

—1 Kings 18:17-19 (ESV)

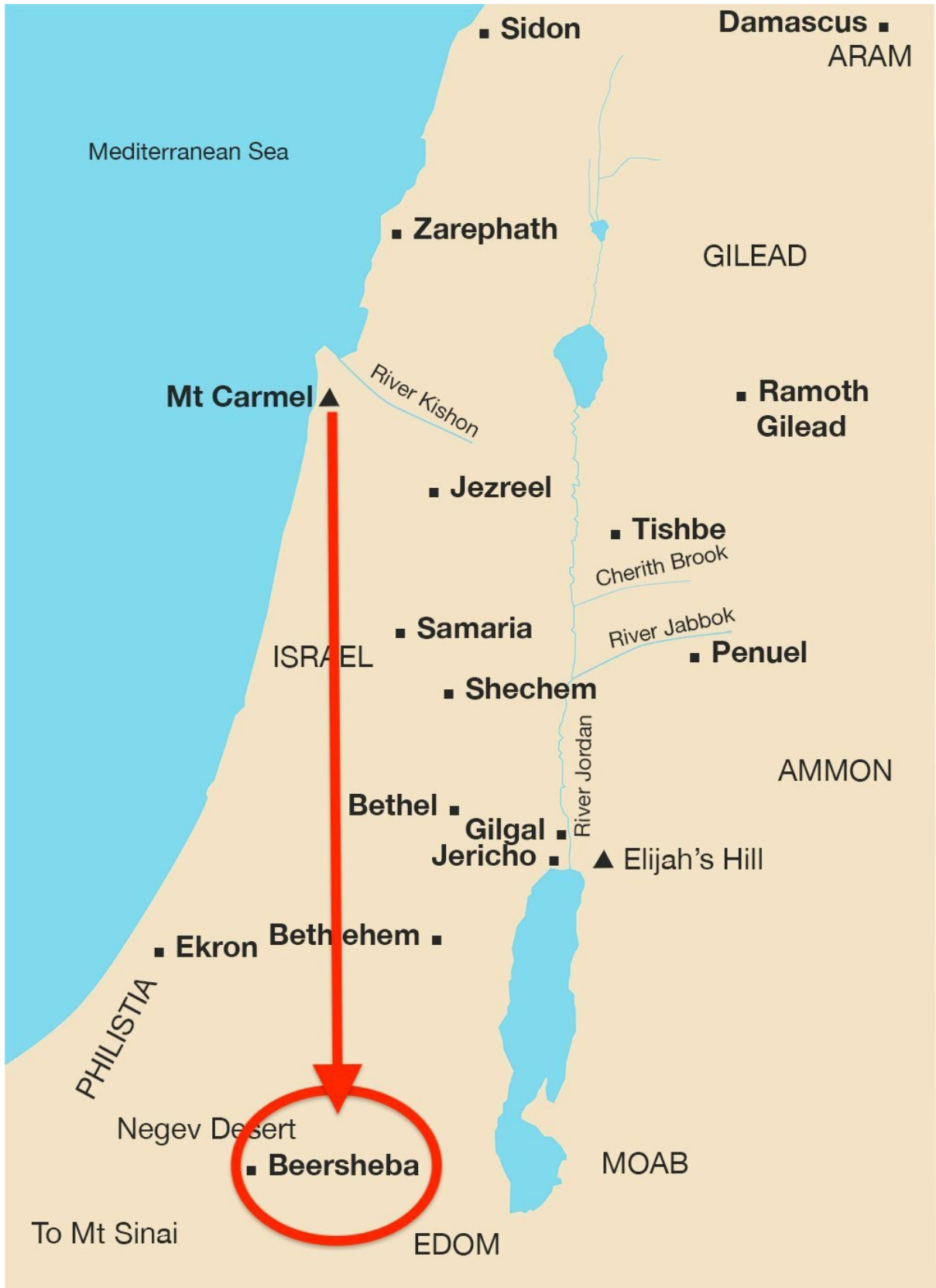


Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, 'So may the gods do to me and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by this time tomorrow.' Then he was afraid, and he arose and ran for his life and came to

Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there. But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he asked that he might die, saying, 'It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my fathers.'

—1 Kings 19:1-4 (ESV)

Jezebel's threat is very real and vicious, but it's hard to understand why Elijah, after such a big victory, suddenly _____ in faith.



None of us will live perfect ___ until we meet Jesus face-to-face.

After great victories and testimonies, the ___ often seeks to undermine our faith and witness.

___ is a powerful driver for us to go into lonely places.

A way to tell if a message is from God is that ___ convicts and nurtures, but ___ condemns.

And [Elijah] lay down and slept under a broom tree. And behold, an angel touched him and said to him, 'Arise and eat.' 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. 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.' 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.

—1 Kings 19:5-8 (ESV)





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?' 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.'

—1 Kings 19:9-10 (ESV)



But even though Elijah ran because of fear, now he's letting God guide his time apart by bringing him to this place, so God had ____ in doing all this.

And [the LORD] 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. And after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire the sound of a low whisper. 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?' 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.' And the LORD said to him, 'Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus. And when you arrive, you shall...'

—1 Kings 19:11-15 (ESV)

God says to us when we find ourselves in lonely places that we're not ____, He understands, and He has a way ____ as we seek Him and trust His timing.

The LORD: 'Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.'

—1 Kings 19:18 (ESV)

One of the things Satan loves to do when we've run to a lonely place, perhaps out of fear, is ____ the truth, so we believe ____.

'Be still, and know that I am God...'

—Psalms 46:10 (ESV)

Whether we're in a lonely place or not, we need ____ practices that help us tune in to hear God's "low whisper."

Next Week: Jesus Walked in Lonely Places