The
Ruthless
Elimination
of
~~Hurry~~

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John Mark Comer

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Part 2—Silence and Solitude

1 Kings 19:1-21 *chair Bible pg. 253*

Big Idea for the week:
Solitude and silence are God's gift to quiet us, so He can speak to us

1. It’s easy to think we will hear God in the loud and busy

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> *11 The Lord said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by."*

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1. It's easy to think we will hear God in the loud and busy

11 …Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks 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
came a fire, but the Lord
was not in the fire.

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God demonstrated His power in the spectacular at Mount Carmel and yet, Elijah still struggled afterward…why?

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Fear

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[10] He replied, "I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, broken down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too."

(Repeated in v. 14)

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1. What if all my effort has been for nothing?

2. What if I'm not making a difference?

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Fear

1. What if all my effort has been for nothing?

2. What if I'm not making a difference?

3. What if people resist my message—or worst, reject me?

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Hurry isn't just a schedule problem; it's a heart problem

A life with no silence and solitude

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A life of full of exhaustion and isolation

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When we are exhausted and isolated, we can mistakenly forget we are not in control

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1. It’s easy to think we will hear God in the loud and busy

2. Scripture teaches we hear God in the quiet and still

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12 after the fire came a gentle whisper.

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The same God who demonstrated His power in the spectacular at Mount Carmel is the same God who met Elijah in the quietness at Mount Horeb

The quiet encounter did not produce an instant emotional transformation—Elijah still needed to hear God's word and receive His direction

It’s one thing to be busy because we genuinely have many responsibilities; it’s another thing to stay busy because we believe that

everything depends on us

Silence and solitude is not a formula that guarantees an audible message from God, but it is a technique that guides us to attentiveness to God

Silence and solitude are not
ways to escape the responsibilities of life
permanently, but to help us
become attentive to God so
we can return to those
responsibilities faithfully

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We choose solitude to be with God so we can return to our lives shaped by God

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[1] 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."

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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 desert. He came to a broom tree, 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."

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5 Then he lay down under the tree and fell asleep. All at once an angel touched him and said, “Get up and eat.”
6 He looked around, and there by his head was a cake of bread baked over hot coals, and a jar of water. He ate and drank and then lay down again.

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7 The angel of the Lord came back a second time and touched him and said, “Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you.”
8 So he got up and ate and drank. Strengthened by that food, he traveled forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God.

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9 There he went into a cave and spent the night. And the word of the Lord came to him: "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

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10 He replied, “I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, broken down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too.”

11 The Lord said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by." Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks 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.

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12 After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper.
13 When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave. Then a voice said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

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14 He replied, “I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, broken down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too.”

15 The Lord said to him, “Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael king over Aram.
16 Also, anoint Jehu son of Nimshi king over Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed you as prophet.

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17 Jehu will put to death any who escape the sword of Hazael, and Elisha will put to death any who escape the sword of Jehu.
18 Yet I reserve seven thousand in Israelall whose knees have not bowed down to Baal and all whose mouths have not kissed him.”

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19 So Elijah went from there and found Elisha son of Shaphat. He was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen, and he himself was driving the twelfth pair. Elijah went up to him and threw his cloak around him.

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20 Elisha then left his oxen and ran after Elijah. “Let me kiss my father and mother goodbye,” he said, “and then I will come with you.” “Go back,” Elijah replied. “What have I done to you?”

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21 So Elisha left him and went back. He took his yoke of oxen and slaughtered them. He burned the plowing equipment to cook the meat and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he set out to follow Elijah and became his attendant.

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