Elijah's Run

I Kings 19

1. ## Intro
   1. Last week we saw God's encounter with the prophets of Baal.
   2. Elijah prays and releases the rain after God proves Himself in control.
   3. Elijah is on a high, he has been obedient to what the Lord has called him to.
   4. But now we see him run in fear and comes to God in a state of despair. What has happened?

2. ## Fear
   1. Jezebel is out to get Elijah (2)
      1. How can one who was just so successful in accomplishing what God wanted, now be found in a state of fear?
         1. Elijah expected revival in Israel. (18:4)
         2. He saw that Ahab and Jezebel did not immediately change to worship Yahweh.
            1. Was this why he raced Ahab to Jezreel, feeling that Ahab would change? (18:46)
         3. But when the threat came from the caged tiger, fear took over.
            1. One day's notice enhanced the fear.
         4. Compare: Twelve spies; Peter walking on water.
            1. When our eyes come off of the Lord, we shrink in fear.
         5. As one rides the crest of a wave, there is also a deep swell on the other side.
            1. Cannot stay on the mountain top. Much learning comes from the valleys.
   2. Was there pride in Elijah after all he had accomplished through God?

3. ## The Journey
   1. Elijah leaves his servant in Beersheba and goes into the desert. (3-4)
      1. Elijah is worn out.
         1. His fear and being tired leads him to depression.
            1. What was once seen as a victory is now seen as failure.
         2. He sits under and tree and has a pity party. (4)
            1. "Take me out of here, I am no better than my predecessors"
               1. Who said he was?
   2. He is instructed by God to go to Mt. Sinai. (8)
      1. Here is the roots of seeking God
         1. There God had appeared to Moses when he was herding sheep.
         2. There He appeared to him when he gave the law.
         3. Elijah needed reaffirmation. (Israel had not repented immediately)
   3. So he ends up at Sinai wondering why he was forsaken.
      1. From Beersheba to Mt. Sinai is about 14 day journey.
         1. It takes him 40 days. Any similarities?
   4. In the same cave as Moses as the Lord passed by? (9) (Ex. 33:21-23).

4. ## His Yahweh Encounter
   1. Elijah is still depressed.

1. His conversation with God is that he has been absolutely loyal, is the only one left doing the work for Yahweh and feels abandoned. (10)
2. God reproduces similar demonstrations of His power that he had done for Moses (Ex 19:16-18)
3. God is not in the wind or earthquake or fire.
   1. He is in the gentle breeze. (12)
   2. Even though God has revealed Himself in the dramatic, He is also in the stillness.
4. Elijah is not alone, God still has 7,000 other faithful followers that He will us.

5. Forwarding the Mantel
   1. Yahweh next directed Elijah to return to Israel to do three things (15-16).
      1. Anoint Hazael as King of Syria.
      2. Anoint Jehu as King of Israel.
      3. Anoint Elisha as your successor.
   2. Elisha was a farmer who lived near Abel-meholah (16)
      1. Throwing a prophet's cloak around a person symbolized the passing of the power and authority of the office to that individual.
   3. Elijah anointed only Elisha personally (19-21).
      1. He anointed Hazael and Jehu indirectly through his successor, Elisha (2 Kings 8:7-14; 9:1-3).
      2. Through these three men God would complete the purge of Baal worship that Elijah had begun (17).

6. Application
   1. Fear and anxiety can lead to depression.
      1. Yet who is our provider?
         1. Eyes taken off of our redeemer.
   2. Sometimes we seek God in the dramatic.
      1. Often He is found in the everyday things of life.
         1. We have to deal with the everyday things.
   3. God can use anyone of us, dramatic or otherwise, but we need to be available.

7. Conclusion
   1. We get 3 chapters covering Elijah's life.
   2. We see him in different circumstances;
      1. Stopping the rain.
      2. Spending time with God, until an appointed moment.
      3. Rising to the challenge of showing who God is.
      4. Fleeing in fear of his life.
      5. Reconnecting with God.
      6. Passing on to another what God had given him.
   3. He was a man just like us. (James 5:17-18)