

The Still Small Voice
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1 Kings 19:11-12

In the first book of the Kings In the 19th chapter beginning with the 11th verse a voice came to Elijah saying,

“Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord.”
And behold, the Lord passed by,
and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains
and broke the rocks to pieces 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 a still small voice.

And God was in that still small voice.

Let's talk about Elijah! Elijah was born in the 9th C. before Christ and he never died. He was taken directly up into heaven in a chariot of fire. Elijah was born in troubled times. He had the bad fortune to have lived under the reign of King Ahab and Queen Jezebel. 1 Kings 21 reports that;

There was never anyone like Ahab. He sold himself to do evil in the eyes of the Lord, urged on by Jezebel, his wife. They behaved in the vilest manner...

If Ahab and Jezebel wanted someone's property they would just kill them and seize it. They spent lavishly supporting the prophets of Baal while tracking down and killing the prophets of God. The rule of law had long since passed and the people groaned under the heavy weight of oppression

and injustice. Fear gripped the whole country and especially It gripped the hearts of believers. And not only that but the economy was in freefall. Israel had an agricultural economy that depended on the rains and the rains had stopped coming. This was way beyond a recession or even a depression. People were starving. One widow explained how she was taking the last of her flour and the last of her oil to bake a little bit of bread. Her plan was for her and her little child to sit down together and eat that final meal and then just wait for death to come. Thank God for the peace and prosperity we enjoy. Nobody would choose to live in Elijah's world.

And if that were not bad enough, Elijah was a prophet of God. His job was to show up in public and let King Ahab know he was doing the wrong thing. The stress he was living under must have been excruciating! More than once God had to send angels to help Elijah make it through.

And so the day arrived when Elijah was hiding from Ahab & Jezebel in a cave on the side of a mountain. And the message arrived for him to come out and stand at the mouth of the cave because God was about to pass by. In that moment of stress, Elijah just needed a little bit of God to rub off on him.

I remember when our daughter was growing up. She was always a joy We have nothing but good memories. But once in a while she would, as she went along, pick up some bad attitude. That never worried me because I knew that all she needed was a little more time together with me. She just needed a little bit of her father to rub off on her. And that's exactly what was going on with Elijah. He just needed for some of his heavenly Father to rub off on him.

And so in the midst of all that suffering and injustice and economic decline God was coming by. Friends, remember this; God was not in the whirlwind of political turmoil but rather He was in that still small voice that quietly intoned

Do not fret because of those who are evil
or be envious of those who do wrong;
for like the grass they will soon wither,
like green plants they will soon fade away.

God was not shaking in the earthquake of breaking news, but rather He was in that still small voice that invites;

Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,

I will be exalted in the earth.”

God was not in the fires of divisive rhetoric. But rather He was in that still small voice that comforts

Peace I leave you;
my peace I give you.
Do not let your hearts be troubled
and do not be afraid.

Sisters and brothers, It wasn't just Elijah who needed the Heavenly Father to rub off on him. Each and every one of us needs exactly that same thing! And the good news is that God is very near.

Psalm 145 tells us

“The Lord is near
to all who call on him.

Acts 17 says

that God is actually not far
from each one of us,

And we understand that our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit so we know that God is very near.

As we draw near to God, He will draw near to us.

So let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with the pure water of the word.

The invitation of the Lord Jesus still beckons across the centuries;

Come to me,
all you who are weary and burdened,
and I will give you rest.
Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,

for I am gentle
and humble in heart,
and you will find rest for your souls.

Truly our souls finds rest in God; our salvation comes from Him. Truly He is our rock and our salvation; he is our fortress, In Him, we will never be shaken.

Sisters and Brothers, come to the Lord right now and find rest for your soul.