

FAITH IN FEAR

PERSONAL STUDY

Week Two – “When Fear Takes Over.”

PASTOR INTRODUCTION

Last time, we began our journey through the life of Elijah by looking at I Kings 17. God had called him to go and proclaim His Word, and then provided for Elijah in an unexpected way. We talked about what it looks like to trust God when He calls us into uncertainty.

This time, we are going to see a very different side of Elijah. Because when we think of people of great faith, we might imagine them to be always courageous. That they are always trusting God. They are not worry-worts and never become overwhelmed.

But that’s not Elijah. Yes, he was faithful and trusted God but he was also afraid.

What happens in I Kings 19:1-8 might be hard for us to understand but it is significant. Elijah had just experienced one of the greatest demonstrations of God’s power in his ministry, yet shortly afterwards he finds himself running for his life.

Read I Kings 19:1-8 and think about what has just happened. This is the same Elijah who stood before Ahab. The same Elijah who trusted God to provide for him by the brook. The same Elijah who had seen God answer his prayers.

But now he is afraid.

He runs into the wilderness, sits beneath a broom tree, and asks God to take his life.

He hadn’t stopped believing in God. He was totally overwhelmed.

This is an important place for us to pause. Because faith doesn’t mean that we will never be afraid.

Sometimes we can look at our own struggles and think:

"If I really trusted God, I wouldn't be this worried."

"If my faith were stronger, I wouldn't be this apprehensive."

"If I really believed God's promises, I wouldn't feel so overwhelmed."

But Elijah shows us something different. That a person have faith and still experience fear.

Notice what God does when Elijah reaches this point.

He doesn't scold him. But he gives him rest, food, water, and takes care of him.

THE RUNDOWN

TEXT I Kings 17:1-7

THEME When fear takes over.

Elijah had already experienced God's miraculous provision. He had obeyed God when called to the brook. He had watched the Lord provide through ravens. Yet now, after Jezebel threatens him, Elijah runs.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What does this tell me about the nature of fear?

What fears tend to become overly large in my own mind?

"It is enough." What does that reveal about exhaustion, discouragement, and the limits of human strength?

What does God's treatment of Elijah teach me about His patience with His servants?

Read Psalm 103:13-14. Where do I need to remember that God knows my frame?

What does faith look like for when fear is still present?

Prayer Requests

This is not just an opportunity to learn God's Word, but also for us to support one another as brothers and sisters in Christ. If you have any prayer requests, please reach out at anytime.

Questions

If something comes up that you would like further clarification on, please let me know. I would be happy to help and discuss them with you.