2026-11-11 Points

Title: The Still Small Voice: Finding God When You Have Nothing Left

Sermon Summary: Drawing from 1 Kings 18-19, this sermon follows the prophet Elijah through one of the most dramatic emotional crashes in Scripture. After calling down fire from heaven, slaying 450 prophets of Baal, and running miraculous distances, Elijah collapses under a broom tree and begs God to take his life. The pastor uses this narrative to explore the reality of spiritual exhaustion, depression, and the loss of purpose that can strike even the most faithful servants of God. Rather than condemning Elijah for his despair, the sermon approaches him with compassion, noting that God's response was not rebuke but nourishment, rest, and a still small whisper. The central theological argument is that God meets his people in their lowest moments not with condemnation but with care, and that the enemy uses noise, confusion, and emotional exhaustion to drown out God's quiet voice. The sermon calls believers to slow down, reset spiritually, and ask the same question God asked Elijah: "What are you doing here?"

Key Points:
- Spiritual and physical exhaustion are real and must be acknowledged rather than dismissed, even in the lives of the most devoted servants of God
- God's response to Elijah's despair was practical care first, providing food, water, and rest before any further instruction or correction
- Satan is the voice that declares a person worthless, while God is the voice that declares a person priceless, and spiritual exhaustion makes it harder to hear the right voice
- The "still small voice" or gentle whisper of God is often drowned out by the winds, earthquakes, and fires of life, requiring believers to intentionally slow down and listen
- Elijah's repeated answer to God's question reveals how easily people become locked into a single narrative of defeat, even when the facts they cite are accurate
- God does not always remove the source of pain or answer prayers for relief the way we expect, but instead prepares his servants to continue the journey
- Believers must regularly ask themselves what they are doing where they

are, spiritually speaking, and whether they are fulfilling the purpose God placed within them
- Time spent with God is not a luxury to be sacrificed when life becomes overwhelming but is the very foundation that makes everything else function properly
- The church must resist becoming robotic in its faith, going through motions rather than walking in genuine communion with God's Spirit

Scripture Reference:
- 1 Kings 18:46, describing the power of the Lord coming upon Elijah as he ran ahead of Ahab's chariot to Jezreel
- 1 Kings 19:1-13, covering Jezebel's death threat, Elijah's flight into the desert, his prayer under the broom tree, the angelic provision of food and water, the journey to Horeb, and God's appearance in the gentle whisper
- 2 Corinthians 12:9, where God tells Paul that his grace is sufficient, his power made perfect in weakness
- Jeremiah 29:11, where God declares that he knows the plans he has for his people, plans for a future and a hope
- John 1:1, identifying the Word as being with God and being God, used to connect the phrase "the word of the Lord" in the Elijah narrative to the person of Jesus

Stories:
- The account of Elijah on Mount Carmel, including the contest with the prophets of Baal, the miraculous fire from heaven, the slaughter of the false prophets, and the supernatural rain, is recapped as context for understanding Elijah's emotional collapse in chapter 19
- The story of the widow of Zarephath and her last jar of oil and handful of flour is referenced as a parallel to the angel providing Elijah with bread and water, suggesting God was echoing his earlier provision to remind Elijah of his faithfulness
- The account of Moses receiving the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai, identified as the same location as Mount Horeb where Elijah fled, is mentioned to highlight the significance of the place Elijah instinctively traveled to
- The pastor shares a personal illustration about Sunday afternoon exhaustion

following preaching, comparing the adrenaline and spiritual drain he experiences to what Elijah must have felt after the events on Mount Carmel
- A brief reference is made to the forty-day periods found throughout Scripture, including Jesus fasting forty days and nights and the forty days of the flood, noting the recurring significance of that number without overanalyzing it