2026-11-18 Points

Title: Restored for Service: When God Is Not Done With You

Sermon Summary: Drawing from the account of Elijah in 1 Kings 19, this sermon explores the reality of spiritual exhaustion, self-disqualification, and God's relentless commitment to restoring His servants for continued use. The pastor parallels Elijah's flight from Jezebel with Moses' flight after killing the Egyptian, demonstrating that God's purposes are not thwarted by human failure or feelings of unworthiness. The sermon culminates in the Transfiguration account in Luke 9, where both Moses and Elijah — two men who had disqualified themselves — are chosen by God to minister to His own Son, Jesus. The central theological argument is that God does not call the qualified but qualifies the called, and that faith, not feeling, must guide the believer through seasons of discouragement, failure, and uncertainty.

Key Points:
- Walking with God is anything but predictable, and assuming we can anticipate God's methods sets us up for discouragement when He works differently than expected
- Elijah's flight was driven by fear and emotional exhaustion, causing him to lose sight of what God had done and was still doing through him
- God's response to Elijah's breakdown was not condemnation but compassionate restoration, including rest, provision, and a renewed commission
- God's presence is not always found in dramatic displays of power; it was revealed to Elijah in a gentle whisper, pointing to the importance of worshiping in spirit and truth rather than seeking manufactured spiritual experiences
- Both Elijah and Moses disqualified themselves through failure and fear, yet God continued to use them, demonstrating that personal failure does not terminate divine calling
- The Transfiguration in Luke 9 reveals that God chose two self-described failures, Moses and Elijah, to minister to and encourage Jesus before His death, showing that God can bring purpose out of anyone's brokenness
- Believers are called to faithful service until death, not until retirement or

comfort, and should resist reducing the Christian life to personal ease and security
- The church must be vigilant not to manufacture spiritual atmosphere through dramatic means but to pursue genuine worship in spirit and truth, allowing God to authenticate His word through His own works

Scripture Reference:
- 1 Kings 19, with particular focus on verses 7 through 18, covering Elijah's journey to Horeb, God's appearance in the gentle whisper, and God's restoration and renewed commission of Elijah
- Luke 9:28-36, the Transfiguration account, in which Moses and Elijah appear with Jesus on the mountain
- Exodus 33, Moses' request to see God's glory and God's response in allowing His glory to pass by
- Isaiah, referenced regarding God being beyond human understanding
- Romans 8:28, summarized as God working all things to good for those who love Him and are called according to His purpose
- 1 Corinthians, referenced regarding Paul's correction of the Corinthian church's disordered worship practices

Stories:
- Elijah's flight from Jezebel following the defeat of the prophets of Baal, his collapse in exhaustion, the angel's provision of food and water, his journey to Horeb, and God's appearance to him in a gentle whisper followed by a renewed commission
- Moses' early life, his killing of the Egyptian, his flight into the wilderness, his encounter with God at the burning bush, and his later request to see God's glory in Exodus 33, where God placed him in the cleft of the rock and allowed His glory to pass by
- Moses striking the rock in anger rather than speaking to it, resulting in God's declaration that he would not enter the promised land
- The Transfiguration of Jesus in Luke 9, where Peter, James, and John witnessed Jesus praying on the mountain, His appearance changing, and Moses and Elijah appearing in glory to speak with Jesus about His coming death in Jerusalem
- The parable of the rich man who planned to build bigger barns and take

his ease, whom God called a fool because his life would be required of him that very night