LECTONARY 2025 06 22

Having a breakdown?

Look at this record of the Most Caring Love of God

1 Kings 19:1-15. Psalm 42,43. Galatians 3:23-29. Luke 8:26-39.

Share My Personal experience – ONE sentence!

*Dramatize*

­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­v1 Jezebel, Ahab, Elijah. Executed all the prophets of Baal. Mt Carmel.

V2 Jezebel message to Elijah – I will kill you!

V3 Elijah ran for his life – huge battle with evil - ? exhaustion depression,

V4. E. went into the wilderness – prayed that he might die. “**it is enough**! Take my life Lord, I am no better than my fathers!” *ever felt like that – even a little.*

V5. He went to sleep - an angel touched him “*arise and eat”*

V6. There was a cake, hot on a bed of coals, and a jar of water. Food cooked by the angel – not magic food (refer the temptation of Jesus to make bread out of stones). And a jug of water. See the incredible gentleness of God – no rebuke or frown, just loving care for a wounded warrior. Can we rest in our souls in this love? Hebrews 8:12

V7. So Elijah slept the angel watched over him. Prepared a second meal – woke him – was sensitive to what he needed for the journey ahead – knew Heavenly Fathers plan for Elijah.

V8. 40 days and nights Elijah travelled in the strength of that care – travelled to Mt Horeb, the mountain of God. Elijah may have just kept walking in the angels company – he may not have had a destiny in mind. Gods gentleness and care.

V9. How would we read this verse aloud or in our minds, what voice would resonate with these words? What part of our life experience, our childhood, our living all the years that we have experienced would resonate in our voice – judgment, hash, disappointment in yourself voice, ‘what did I expect?’

Or quiet, gentle, companionable? “God forgives and does not keep reminding us of our failures” ………….. Did Elijah, in the world that he lived in know that, a world of laws, and corruption and harshness – Elijah was one of the most God powered people in the old testament, did his trust in God fail or was he numb inside from the battle. What of us when we have times of discouragement and being worn-out? Remember Gods gentleness and His Presence is still with us. A life of service or maybe just learning to walk – God prepares a hot meal for us and a jug of water – wonder where the angel got the water jug from -an op shop or does God have a store of hand made jugs – not ‘a flick of a finger’ and the jug appears!

“”What are you doing here, Elijah?” gentle, caring but firm. Honest between God and ourselves is the basis of recovery.

V10. Elijah is honest with God -how he feels – maybe let down by God – maybe like Jonah – maybe like we feel sometimes – Christian people can be exhausted with all the energy that we put into our days. That our chemical balance can be worn out, out of balance and we need to be still for awhile – “be still and know that I AM God” (Psalm 46:10) be still like a child when her hair is plated – she is still - but something is happening!

V14 “I am left alone” this can come upon each of us, aloness can be needful but can also be ‘crushing.’ Elijah felt alone – a familiar feeling when we become overwhelmed – what did God say later– “I have reserved for myself 7000 whose knees have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.” V18

God told Elijah to go outside the cave and stand on the mountain before the Lord,” the Lord appeared before Elijah – what would we expect if Gods Presence appeared to us??? A burning bush like Moses? tongues of fire? Surely we would disintegrate! Here we hear and see and feel – standing in a desolate mountain – “a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the Lord. ***But***  the Lord was not in the wind. Then ‘an earthquake’ but the Lord was not in the earthquake, the ‘fire’ BUT the Lord was Not in the fire.

V12. Then - maybe a moment of absolute calm -

“a still small voice” the wonder and gentleness of God “a still small voice.”

V13. Elijah appears not to have responded to the power and furiousness of the fire, wind and earthquake yet the still small voice carried the essence of God’s love to him. We can ask our God for gentleness for others and ourselves *but always* “not what I want/think/feel but what You know Lord.

Elijah’s emotions were sure of Gods Presence yet the feeling of ? being ‘let down’ ? or shame or—after a great victory of not receiving glory or maybe Ahab and Jezebels not repenting and turning to God blew his hope away – we can see that ourselves in, when a lot of hope and expectation and effort goes into planning a function or an activity, or hope for another and there is no apparent response.

He wrapped his face in his cloak and stood, face covered, hiding maybe but still to face God – to hear God as he had done all his life – knowing that God was real and that God communicated and that he could speak to God. Yet his attitude was resentful, as was Jonah’s.

God said “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

Elijah spoke honestly, maybe petulantly ? – to God – his feelings, his despondency, maybe – what now – my life is over – what now after all of this.

V15. God gave him a mission – go to .. and do this .. including anointing your successor.

V18. And then the wonder – wonder for all of us, each one of us when we feel ‘why does no one respond, why do they not see.’ “I have reserved for myself seven thousand of those in Israel who have not bowed the knee to Baal, every mouth that has not kissed him.” There it is - “the Lord knows them that are His.” (2 Timothy 2:19)

“I will never leave you I will never forsake you.” (Hebrews 13:5)

“Your name is tattooed on my palm,” (Isaiah 49:16)

When we reach periods or moments of discouragement – has God left us??

It is a time to rest in Gods tender care and let Him restore us.

Our Lord Jesus on his final night, in the fullness of intimacy said –

“Father, I have lost none of those that you have given me.” (John 18:9)

**That includes you and me.**