

Intro: Elijah is following God's direction perfectly...and his world is falling apart BECAUSE he is following God!

- We can understand things not going well we are disobedient, make bad decisions, doing the wrong thing, like Jacob
- We can wrap our minds around things going downhill when we are in leadership, like Moses, a target for the enemy
- We can accept that sometimes life just happens...others around us make bad choices, we all pay a price, like Gideon

But when things go SIDEWAYS BECAUSE WE ARE FOLLOWING GOD, DOING RIGHT THING...THAT'S HARD!!!
That throws us off...and when it happens we find ourselves looking at God and saying...SERIOUSLY? WHAT NEXT?

Today finish our series titled UnAfraid: Learning how to deal with Uncertainty and Fear in our Spiritual life.

That is where Elijah is in 1 Kings 16-17 Page 252

- **Elijah's Story:** Ahab is an Awful King, and Elijah is Sent to Confront Him. 1 Kings 16:29-34

~Ahab is a wicked King: He led the people to stray from God: (As Goes the King, So Goes the Nation)

~Elijah is sent to intervene: The drought is a sign of God's judgment. Ch 17:1

~Elijah OBEYS God exactly: He leaves and hides in a ravine, by a brook, absolutely dependent upon provision of God

>Listens To God

>Speaks to Ahab

>Obeys God's directions

>Everything is Great...God Honors His word, (Water, Ravens, Meat, Bread)

~And then...EVERYTHING falls apart! Vs 7 "And then the brook dries up!"

- **What Do You Do When Your Brook Dries Up?**

It happens to us all at some point in our spiritual life. We have been obedient. We are walking with God. We doing right. But...for some mysterious reason known only to God...Everything changes...and those things that were nourishing...stop. The place of spiritual safety becomes a dangerous place.

The place where you had His presence, His blessing, His provision...now is a place of scarcity, emptiness, lack.

When that happens we are faced with a number of different options...but only one of them is right! Look with me @ options:

(We see each of these played out in the Nation of Israel in their time in the desert.)

>**Blame God:** This is YOUR fault! YOU did this...YOU betrayed me! YOU never really loved me

Nu 21:5 "...they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the desert? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!"

>**Refuse to Move:** We aren't going to go forward. We are afraid of what the future holds. We see problems

Num 14:4 "...And they said to each other, "We should choose a leader and go back to Egypt."

>**Solve it Yourself:** Sometimes we want to take matters into our own hands...and just do what we think is right!

Num 14:42: "Do not go up, because the LORD is not with you. You will be defeated by your enemies, for the Amalekites and Canaanites will face you there. Because you have turned away from the LORD, he will not be with you and you will fall by the sword." Nevertheless, in their presumption they went up toward the high hill country, though neither Moses nor the ark of the LORD's covenant moved from the camp. Then the Amalekites and Canaanites who lived in that hill country came down and attacked them and beat them down all the way to Hormah."

>**Obey: DO AGAIN...**what God calls you to do. This is the right thing to do! Notice what bible says abt Elijah

Vs 3-5: "Depart...So he went!" Listened and obeyed: Brook dried up.....

Vs 8-10 "Arise and Go...So he rose up and went!

Notice this...there isn't any arguing, discussion, protests, questions: He heard...and He obeyed!

THAT IS WHAT YOU DO WHEN YOUR BROOK DRIES UP! YOU LISTEN AND OBEY!

- **Lessons From a Dry Brook**

1. Standing in the presence of God prepares you for standing before others, and fulfilling His call in your life.

~Elijah's declaration: "Before whom I stand" Lit = *to stand before the presence of to serve (Priest in Temple)*

~4x Elijah 2x Elisha 2

~Source of their power before kings, temptations, trials and tribulations: "God LIVES....and I serve HIM!"

~Foundation upon which they stand regardless of what swirls around them

~Governing Boundary of their actions: Where ever I go, whatever I do...I do before HIM!

~Way to deal with the provision of God disappearing... ALL ARE THE SAME

Applic: That is still as true today for you and I as it ever was for Elijah and Elisha

Acts 4: See it lived out in the life of the Disciples: Healed man crippled from Birth: "Took note/W Jesus"

**Note: Even though he was where God directed Him, Elijah was STILL listening: Serving: Standing

When God spoke the second time...he was actively listening...

Even when you are where God wants you...He always has the right to move you elsewhere!

Paul Acts 27: Middle of a raging storm...all hope lost ("Whose I am and whom I serve!")

2. Remember: God's direction in your life is a process and a journey, not a settled destination.

Often we get this all wrong! We think that once we hear from God it is a settled destination.

And it is...Until He chooses to move us onward! We are always in the process of following His direction.

True of Israel in Wilderness, Ruth as she followed God's direction, Esther, Every King, Every disciple

God calls us...but he reserves the right to move us when He wants us in another place, doing another thing

Applic: If Elijah were like most of us...He would have died by there by the brook...Dry Husk...waiting for God

KEY: When He doesn't speak: "Never move in doubt." God will speak, He will lead (Must: CAR)

3. Understand that God's direction to a place of provision isn't always forever

HE is your destination...NOT the place He sends you!

We get confused here. If we were Elijah we would be like: **But God...YOU brought me Here
You have been providing
I know I'm here at your direction!
Yes, But now its time to move!**

You see this over and over in the life of Israel in the desert.

God directs them, God leads them, God provides for them.

Ex 13:21 By day the LORD went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night. Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people."

And then...God MOVES Them!

That is what God is doing with Elijah! He is places him where He wants him, and then says:

"Elijah...I have another place...another miracle..."

Sometimes...

It is for YOU:

Grow you...You have become comfortable...Too Comfortable...wants to grow you

It is for OTHERS:

Using Elijah to provide for the widow...and her Son! Growing her faith: Provision

The move might not be about YOU at all! God could have continued!

But he sent Elijah to the widow: **ON PURPOSE**

Jesus said:

Key: God is always leading His people. Just because he has brought you to a place of provision that is comfortable, meets all your needs, gives you everything you desire...doesn't mean He intends you to **STAY** there.

Sometimes it is a stop along the journey. When it is time for you to go...He will move you. **Brook will dry up!**

For you to **KNOW** that...You have to be like Elijah: Standing in the presence of the Lord...Listening

4. God Speaks To Those That Are Willing To Listen!

Elijah was evidently waiting with an open heart. God always seeks those who are willing to walk in faith.

This miracle is recounted by Jesus when He began His earthly ministry.

Both this instance (widow; Naaman healing of leprosy) Both of which miracles are prefaced with: **The One I serve!**

2 of the 4 are the basis of what Jesus talks about in NT when he is challenging His hometown to believe.

God **SPEAKS** to those whose heart is open, ready and willing to respond in faith.

One of the **BEST** ways to hear from God is to say in advance: **God WHATEVER YOU SAY: I WILL DO!**

CONCL: Where are YOU today? Has your brook dried up? Are you in a place where you no longer see God's provision?

Maybe you are there...because that was where God wanted you...But no longer. Ravens don't come, Brook not flow

- Are you Standing and Listening? Open hearted before God, in Faith waiting to hear His direction
- Are you Sitting in a place of previous provision...watching the stream dry up; Frustrated,
- Sitting by an empty stream...No ravens in sight...wondering..what now God?
- Don't complain...Don't argue...Don't be stubborn...

Remember: The Path Forward Spiritually is Always the Same:

>Listening For The Word of The Lord: (Standing in His presence ready to serve)

>Speaking Truth at His Command: (Never be afraid to speak His command)

>Be ready to Obeying With Question, Even When you Don't Like It

>Always open and Ready for New Direction

>Repeat

CONCL"Our cause is never more in danger than when a human, no longer desiring, but still intending, to do our Enemy's will, looks round upon a universe from which every trace of Him seems to have vanished, and asks why he has been forsaken, and still obeys."