



Series: Storms
Living with Letdown
Read 1 Kings 19:1-18
Speaker: Pastor Jeff Bucknam

Check out the sermon here: <https://northview.org/living-with-letdown/>

A Note from Pastor Dan: Hello! Welcome to our sermon reflection. This is intended for you to spend time reflecting upon the weekend teaching of God's Word. So, it's important to have watched or listened to the message from the previous weekend. In the coming weeks, I would encourage you to use one of our Sermon Guides as you watch/listen to the sermon in order to keep focused and to note important information. As you work through this lesson, feel free to ask your parents any questions and include them in your observations.

- ⇒ **Jeff's Opening Illustration:** Missing Baseball!
- ⇒ **Point:** It all feels like we have had the rug pulled out from under our feet

2 Points:

1. A Discouraged Prophet
2. An Encouraging God

1. A Discouraged Prophet

► **Read 1 Kings 19:1-2 (NIV)**
Elijah Flees to Horeb

Now Ahab told Jezebel everything Elijah had done and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. ² So Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah to say, "May the gods deal with me, be it ever so severely, if by this time tomorrow I do not make your life like that of one of them."

- *The setting:* the majority of the people of the land are following the god Baal
- Elijah was so pumped up after his defeat of the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel!
- But now he is actually worried about losing his own life!

► **Read 1 Kings 19:3-4 (NIV)**

³ *Elijah was afraid^[a] and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there, ⁴ while he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness. He came to a broom bush, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. "I have had enough, Lord," he said. "Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors."*

- Elijah expected God to dramatically bring revival, but instead, Elijah feels that God has abandoned him.
- In fact, Elijah is ready to give up his life in his despair.
- We all “**under a broom tree**” experiences, where we are overwhelmed by life and feel abandoned by God

2. An Encouraging God

► **Read 1 Kings 19:8-14 (NIV)**

⁸ *So he got up and ate and drank. Strengthened by that food, he traveled forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God. ⁹ There he went into a cave and spent the night.*

The Lord Appears to Elijah

And the word of the Lord came to him: "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

¹⁰ *He replied, "I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too."*

¹¹ *The Lord said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by."*

Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. ¹² After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. ¹³ When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave.

Then a voice said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

¹⁴ *He replied, "I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too."*

- Jeff spoke about 2 ways that you can ask someone a question:
 - ⇒ There is a joyful way
 - ⇒ There is a slight rebuking way.
- God responded to Elijah in a slightly rebuking way
- Consider what Elijah experienced while on the mountainside:
 - ⇒ A storm/wind/fire/earthquake
 - ⇒ Possible worst things that someone could experience at that time
- God wasn't apparent in any of those, but in the “whisper”, totally surprising Elijah
- Elijah wanted God to appear in a big, dramatic manner, but God has His own timing & purposes.

► **Read 1 Kings 19:15-18 (NIV)**

¹⁵ The Lord said to him, “Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael king over Aram. ¹⁶ Also, anoint Jehu son of Nimshi king over Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed you as prophet. ¹⁷ Jehu will put to death any who escape the sword of Hazael, and Elisha will put to death any who escape the sword of Jehu. ¹⁸ Yet I reserve seven thousand in Israel—all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal and whose mouths have not kissed him.”

- Just because God didn't respond how Elijah expected, doesn't mean that God isn't moving according to His divine purposes.
- We need to acknowledge that even though all of us feel that the “rug has been pulled out from under us”, we can take assurance in the truth that God has not turned His back on us. And that He still calls on us to surrender our will to His.
- Imagine when Jesus was arrested and crucified in the New Testament. What do you think the disciples emotionally experienced! They would have been devastated! And yet, Sunday came & Jesus rose! God knows what He's doing.

Digging In

There are many similarities between Elijah and Moses in this text. Let's take some time to trace them out:

a) Read **Exodus 3:1 & 19:1-2.**

Where is Moses (and Israel) in these scenes?

b) Read **Exodus 3:13-15.**

What happens at the mountain?

c) Read **Exodus 24:18.**

How long does Moses spend on the mountain with God?

d) Read **Exodus 33:18-23.**

How does the Lord manifest Himself before Moses?

e) Read **Exodus 19:16-19.**

What is different about how God reveals Himself on the mountain to Israel versus Elijah?

Application

1. Elijah is in the midst of a storm: the king and queen are against him and he seems to be the only one left, yet there are 7,000 faithful remaining in Israel.
When you are in the midst of a storm, does it ever feel like you are all alone?
2. When Elijah was at his lowest, he desired for his life to be taken from him. Instead, God grants him sleep, food, and water to help him through it.
When you are in a storm, what helps to comfort you & give you peace?
3. Amidst the darkness, God reveals Himself to Elijah not in a powerful display but in an intimate whisper.
How does knowing that God is near even when it feels darkest give you hope?