

How To Hear God's Voice: Circumstances

Sermon Notes November 18th, 2018

1 Kings 19

¹ 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."

³ Elijah was afraid and ran for his life.

Sometimes our circumstances become an obstacle to seeing things clearly.

Filter(s) of Circumstances:

- 1) God is putting me through a test. I need to endure with obedience.
- 2) I'm living with the consequences of my sin. I need to repent.
- 3) I'm being attacked by evil. I need to resist.
- 4) I'm being persecuted for doing the right thing. I need to endure with grace.
- 5) I'm the victim of an offense. Choose forgiveness & trust in God's justice.

1 Kings 19:3-4

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."⁵ Then he lay down under the bush and fell asleep.

Endure your circumstance with a connection with the Lord, not in isolation.

1 Kings 19:5-8

All at once an angel touched him and said, "Get up and eat." ⁶ He looked around, and there by his head was some bread baked over hot coals, and a jar of water. He ate and drank and then lay down again.

⁷ The angel of the Lord came back a second time and touched him and said, "Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you." 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.

In the midst of your circumstance, you can expect the Lord to speak to you and sustain you.

1 Kings 19:9-12

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.

Sometimes our circumstances keep us from hearing from God because we haven't cut out the noise.

God desires to lead you through the pain of the circumstance so that you never forget what He wants to teach you.

1 Kings 19:13-18

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."

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."

Remember, the Lord will provide & speak through people as fuel to endure.

Often, God will speak through your circumstance by changing your perspective. Ask God to reveal His perspective on the circumstances you are facing.

Deuteronomy 6:12

be careful that you do not forget the LORD, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

Joshua 4:6-7

In the future, when your children ask you, ‘What do these stones mean?’ tell them that the flow of the Jordan was cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord. When it crossed the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. These stones are to be a memorial to the people of Israel forever.”