

Sunday 14th April 2013

Elijah Part 8 Time to reveal who you are.

Last week we saw how Elijah stared death in the face and overcame in God. Because Elijah believed in the God of impossibilities.

The instrument of faith fashioned in the fire of life's trials and tests was now ready to be used.

"The man is ready" I use the current tense here so that we can be included. Remember this is our story as well. This is our journey. Make it yours.

1 Kings 18:1-2 Read

After many days. Not sure how long this was after the end of chapter 17. So much is not written.

Would life ever go back to being normal after such an event. How could it. Surely they would now be walking in the victory and promises of God. Trusting him for all things. That Day forever implanted into their minds and hearts. Recounting to friends, relatives, strangers maybe, of the time that God did the impossible. Keeping it fresh and alive in the lives.

Tome to leave: Elijah it's time. Christian it's time.

John 17:1 These words spoke Jesus and lifted up his eyes to heaven and said, father, the hour has come, glorify Your son that Your son may glorify you.

It's good at this point to remind ourselves of who this is all about. God says he will share his glory with no man. Everything He does in us should be given back to Him in praise and glory.

It was three years before that God said to Elijah, "go and hide yourself", now He says " go and show yourself"

Three years before when God said there would be no rain or dew, now He says that " I will send rain upon the earth"

Maybe God has been preparing you and now he speaks to you and is saying, it's time. It's time to show the world what God has done for you.

How must Elijah have felt? If it was not for the three years preparation, then probably he would have done a Jonah.

Elijah had learned to faithfully trust God. Something had changed within. He was different. He was now living up to his name: The Lord is my God

Elijah now knew the lord as his God and this was the message he was going to take to a nation who worshipped pagan Gods.

How do you feel when you know you have to deal with tough issues? We can panic, be in fear, run and hide.

Its not easy when we know we have to turn and face our problems.

Philippians 4:13 and Romans 8:31 Read

We can also be in fear and dread whilst dealing. Come that in a while.

Elijah was no different in his human weaknesses than we are. God made the above scriptures (His word) real to him in the three years he was with him. God has done the same for us in Christ.

1 Kings 18:17-40 Read

“ The battle of the Gods”

This account tells us how Elijah stood toe to toe against the prophets of Baal and prove that the Lord God was the only one worthy and deserving of human worship.

Things are not that much different today. God is still looking for people who will stand toe to toe against the idol worship of this world.

1st commandment:

Deut 6:5/6 **And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. And these words which I command you this day, shall be in your heart.**

It's the same message today. How do you get a commandment into some ones heart?.

Do you love God because he told you or because he showed you. **“It shall be in your heart”** It will happen because I have commanded it.

The Meeting: When you face the problem.

1 Kings 18:2 + 17 Read

Ahab leaves no doubt as to how he feels about Elijah. The word troubler seems too timid in our understanding.

Troubler: Snake, Viper, Asp.

Ahab cursed Elijah the same way that God cursed the serpent in the garden of Eden. Cursed above all animals.

Severe famine: Africa, Disease, Death.

All your fault. Spitting fire and accusations (remind you of someone?)

How quickly people blame God for all that's going wrong with this world.

When we step out in faith and announce who we are in God, there is always a clash. Someone to intimidate us.

The second point at which we could retreat and give up.

1 John 4:18 There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear, because fear has torment. He that has fear is not made perfect in love.

Text off Lynda: Ps I'm getting Brave!!

Maybe tonight we could add a Ps to our lives and say the same. I'm getting brave.

Perfect: The Limit, Completeness. To the Conclusion or Termination.

What God had placed in Elijah over the three years culminated in perfect love.

It's not always about kisses, cuddles and getting what you want.

God perfected His love in Elijah in the three years. At Cherith, at Zarephath and faced with death.

David: There was no fear in David when he faced Goliath. He did not see him as a giant, he saw him as God saw him. No problem.

God had perfected His love in David. He was with him when he was alone fighting against the bear and against the Lion. Protecting his flock.

The Gospel tells us of Christ who poured out his love on a group of people He was preparing with a message to tell the world. A message about the one true God.

John 19:30 When Jesus had therefore received the vinegar, He said, "It is finished" and he bowed His head and gave up the ghost.

Finished: Same word as Perfected.

It's as if Jesus was saying, there is nothing more I can, or need to do other than give up my life for you.

Whatever toe to toe situation you are facing right now, God is telling you, " You are ready" You are the vessel that I have prepared for my glory. I will use you to bring people back to me. I Have Perfected You In Christ.