

SUNDAY MORNING

Announcements

Clay Morris

Song Leader

Daniel Allgor

Lord's Supper

Jack Calvert, Bill Rinehart,
Cole Meador

Prayers

Willie Standokes, Bill Rinehart

WEDNESDAY EVENING

Announcements

Randy Ellis

Song Leader

Alan Blaylock

Prayers

Joseph Barry, Rodney Ellis

Invitation

Jon Barry

ABOUT US

Elders

Jack Calvert Rodney Ellis

Deacons

Jon Barry Mike Davis
Clay Morris

Evangelist

Bryan Garlock

SERVICE TIMES

Sunday

Bible Study9:30 A.M.
Worship10:15 A.M.

Monday (Zoom)

Bible Study7:00 P.M.

Wednesday

Bible Study7:00 P.M.

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Questions in Discouragement

Bubba Garner

When we read about Bible characters, it is easy to explain away their accomplishments by saying, "That was Moses or David or Elijah." We are not expected to follow their examples because they possess qualities that we could never have. Yet James wrote that "Elijah was a man with a nature like ours" (Jam. 5:17).

The NIV translates that phrase, "Elijah was a man just like us." He had a special calling from God, for sure. But he was a man. He had his ups and down, times of joy and times of sorrow, days of prosperity followed by days of adversity. Just like us. And that means he had occasions of discouragement.

The fact that there was a man in the First Century who was nicknamed "the Son of Encouragement" (Acts 4:36) ought to prove that God's people have battled

discouragement throughout the ages. We get overwhelmed by the cares of life and disheartened when things aren't going our way. What will be our response to such feelings? How will we deal with them?

One of the typical reactions is to ask more questions. We can't answer the ones we already have, but we think introducing more will help solve the problem. Just like Elijah and his plight in 1 Kings 19.

"Why me?" We ask that question as if God is picking a fight with us. Or maybe He has forgotten how righteous we are in comparison to the wicked people around us. Twice, Elijah pleaded his case before the Lord. "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the sons of Israel have forsaken Thy covenant, torn down Thine altars and killed Thy

to act when we repent. Repentance isn't just saying "excuse me," "my bad," or "forgive me," and then going on with our lives as if nothing happened. Repentance should produce real change in our actions. We are to "bear fruits worthy of repentance" (Matthew 3:8). I am afraid that too many of us think that our repentance should go unnoticed. We are incognito repenters! And while God hardly asks us to don sackcloth and ashes today, He does ask us to "do works befitting repentance" (Acts 26:20).

Let's resolve to turn away from sin in our lives, and make sure that we behave in such a way that folks can tell that's what we've done!

FAMILY TALK

Continue to remember the health concerns of *Gerald Eaton, Joey Avance, Jerry Schnelle, Bonnie Allgor, Pat Buls, Sonny & Cathy Monaghan, Beth Ellen, and Pete Rowland.*

If you have any announcements, please call or text Bryan.

prophets with the sword” (19:10,14). In response, God twice asked His prophet His own question: “What are you doing here Elijah” (19:9, 13). As if to say, “Quit focusing on yourself and get to the work I have called you to do.”

“All who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted” (2 Tim. 3:12). Does that leave anyone out? Instead of asking, “Why me,” perhaps we should ask, “Am I better than Elijah? Moses? David? Jeremiah? Paul?” Peter said not to be surprised at your suffering (1 Pet. 4:12-13). This is not something strange that is happening only to you. What are you doing here? And what are you going to do about it?

“Why bother?” If the righteous suffer while the wicked prosper, why even try? Elijah went from the highest of highs to the lowest of lows. “He requested for himself that he might die, and said, ‘It is enough; now, O Lord, take my life, for I

am not better than my fathers” (19:4). Since he had been no more successful than those who had gone before, he wondered why he should even go any further. In response, God provided him food and drink for his life to sustain him in his future journey.

How could we ever think that God would abandon us? We equate “unanswered prayers” with the assumption that He does not care for us. Elijah prayed, “Take my life.” God said, “No.” I often wonder if Elijah thought about that when he was being taken up to heaven in the fiery chariot and whirlwind. That future victory is why you keep going. And along the way, you even learn to thank God for times He said, “No.”

“Who cares?” Who else is there besides me? “I alone am left. And they seek my life to take it away” (19:10, 14). Elijah could only see what was missing. God showed him what was still there. The word of the Lord came to Him in a great and strong wind, an earthquake, and a fire (17:2,8; 18:1; 19:9). They were all at God’s command. And His presence was with him even in the “sound of a gentle blowing” (19:12). Not only that, God said, “I will leave 7,000 in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed the knee to Baal and every mouth that has not kissed him” (19:18). Who cares besides me? God and His mighty army!

Adversity can cause us to lose our perspective. We exaggerate and say, “No one understands” or “I’m the only one going through this.” But when we come together with the local church, we can look around and see people who are just like us. Instead of

isolating ourselves and trying to get through these times on our own, we ought to be surrounding ourselves with those who have not bowed the knee to discouragement.

Two people appeared and spoke with Jesus on the mountain of transfiguration: Moses and Elijah. He who ran for his life and then requested that he might die actually never saw death. He was just like us. And we can overcome just like him. No question about it.

How Men Act When They Repent by Steve Klein

In Matthew 12:41, Jesus said, "The men of Nineveh will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and indeed a greater than Jonah is here." According to Jesus, the men of Nineveh repented at the preaching of Jonah.

You remember the story, don't you? God had commanded Jonah, "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me" (Jonah 1:2). Now Nineveh was not only a city filled with wickedness, it was also the capital of the Assyrians, hated enemies of the Israelites. Jonah didn't want to go. He fled from God's presence.

However, after being given some quality time in the belly of a fish to reflect and pray,

Jonah decided to obey God. Jonah walked through the city proclaiming the judgment of the Lord upon these pagan people: "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" (Jonah 3:4).

The people of Nineveh repented. They "proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them" (Jonah 3:5). When word came to the king of Nineveh, "he arose from his throne and laid aside his robe, covered himself with sackcloth and sat in ashes." He decreed that "neither man nor beast, herd nor flock" were to eat or drink and that "every one" was to "turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hand" (Jonah 3:7-8).

The text says that, "God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God relented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them" (Jonah 3:10). God can read men's hearts. He knows more about what is going on in our heads than we do ourselves. But He did not need to read the minds of the Ninevites to know that they had repented. He "saw their works, that they turned away from evil". When the men of Nineveh repented, nobody was left to wonder whether or not their repentance was genuine. Nobody was left guessing about their intention to stop committing evil. Nobody would have doubted they had actually repented of their sins.

We really need to learn this lesson from the men of Nineveh. We need to learn how