

## Imitators of God

### 1 – The Basics of Soul Care Foundations

#### 1 Kings 19:1-18



1. As you consider the events on Mt. Carmel (1 Kings 18) and Jezebel's response in this chapter, can you relate to Elijah's response? What things in your life have made (or make) you fearful? What things typically overwhelm you and make you want to run away and give up?
2. In this week's sermon we identified a pattern for caring based on God's dealing with Elijah in this text. We first care for the person's needs holistically, then we listen to their story, thirdly we point them back to God and finally we encourage them to get back on their feet. Do you think this order is important? Why do you think it might be wise to follow this pattern?
3. 1 John 3:17 offers a direct challenge to us as believers about caring for the needs of others. --*"But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?"* How might we become more effective in ministering to people in our midst holistically?
4. When we are talking to someone who is discouraged, we can be tempted to push past the listening step to offer some advice or a passage of scripture we think might help. Why do you think it might be wise to listen before jumping in?
5. In 2 Timothy 3:15-17, we read: *"...from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup> All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."*

How has God's word proven to be truly sufficient in your life? What are some specific ways that God has encouraged or directed you through his Word in the past year? How do you think you might use that as you come alongside a brother or sister who are struggling?

6. At the end of this passage (v.15-18), God gives Elijah a list of tasks. How do you think this would have impacted Elijah? Why is it so important that we remind those who are going through a difficult season to not lose sight that they are still on mission for God? *Consider this verse as you answer. Jeremiah 12:5a, "If you have raced with men on foot, and they have wearied you, how will you compete with horses?"*

**Series: Imitators of God**

**Message: 1 - The Basics: Soul Care Foundations**

**Text: 1 Kings 19:1-18**

**Nathan Hooper**

**Harvest Bible Chapel**

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Ephesians 5:1-2

*Elijah failed in the very point at which he was strongest, and that is where most men fail. In Scripture, it is the wisest man who proves himself to be the greatest fool; just as the meekest man, Moses, spoke hasty and bitter words. Abraham failed in his faith, and Job in his patience; so, he who was the most courageous of all men, fled from an angry woman.*

- Charles Spurgeon

**If I am to imitate God in caring for others, I will....**

**...consider their needs holistically (v. 5-8)**

*Is it not amazing: though we know the power of the Holy Spirit can be ours, we still ape the world's wisdom, trust its forms of publicity and its noise, and imitate its ways of manipulating men! If we try to influence the world by using its methods, we are doing the Lord's work in the flesh. If we put activity, even good activity, at the center rather than trusting God, then there may be the power of the world, but we will lack the power of the Holy Spirit.*

- Francis Schaeffer, No Little People

Psalm 23:1-3

Matthew 11:28-30

**...listen to their story (v. 9-10)**

**...point them toward God (v. 11-14)**

Galatians 6:1-2

2 Timothy 3:15-17

*The sufficiency of Scripture means that we don't need any more special revelation. We don't need any more inspired, inerrant words. In the Bible God has given us, we have the perfect standard for judging all other knowledge. All other knowledge stands under the judgment of the Bible even when it serves the Bible.*

- John Piper

How Scripture speaks to us:

- It encourages us in our suffering.
- It convicts us of our sin while holding out grace.
- It gives us a sense of our intrinsic value, not because of our achievements or special qualities, but as those created in God's image.

- It offers principles of how we should conduct ourselves in business and in our work or with our finances.
- It outlines how we should treat our spouses and how we should raise our kids.
- It speaks to our mission—giving us “built-in” meaning and purpose.
- It provides a clear understanding of the security we have in Christ and His righteousness, so that we can stop striving and rest in him! We belong to him!

**...encourage them to get back on their feet (v. 15-18)**

Jeremiah 12:5a

*Every step of the way we are accompanied by the God who, in Christ Jesus, will never un-love us, un-adopt us, un-redeem us. No matter what we've done, no matter what fallout from our actions has decimated our lives, no matter how much spite or malice, grief or pain, bitterness or despair we feel, we have a God who is on our side. He's walked this path with countless people before us. Now he walks it with us. And there is no better companion than the God who was once called the friend of sinners.*

– Chad Birds, The Weight of Glory