

Face to Face

Elijah (week 2)

LifeNotes

TALK IT OVER

Main Idea

Experiencing God's goodness enables us to endure hard times and live with joy.

Key Scriptures

How precious are your thoughts about me, O God. They cannot be numbered! I can't even count them; they outnumber the grains of sand! And when I wake up, you are still with me! Psalm 139:17-18

Elijah was afraid and fled for his life. He went to Beersheba, a town in Judah, and he left his servant there. Then he went on alone into the wilderness, traveling all day. He sat down under a solitary broom tree and prayed that he might die. "I have had enough, LORD," he said. "Take my life, for I am no better than my ancestors who have already died." Then he lay down and slept under the broom tree. But as he was sleeping, an angel touched him and told him, "Get up and eat!" He looked around and there beside his head was some bread baked on hot stones and a jar of water! So he ate and drank and lay down again. Then the angel of the LORD came again and touched him and said, "Get up and eat some more, or the journey ahead will be too much for you." So he got up and ate and drank, and the food gave him enough strength to travel forty days and forty nights to Mount Sinai, the mountain of God. There he came to a cave, where he spent the night. The LORD said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" Elijah replied, "I have zealously served the LORD God Almighty. But the people of Israel have broken their covenant with you, torn down your altars, and killed every one of your prophets. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me, too." "Go out and stand before me on the mountain," the LORD told him. 1 Kings 19:5-10

And as Elijah stood there, the LORD passed by, and a mighty windstorm hit the mountain. It was such a terrible blast that the rocks were torn loose, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. And after the earthquake there was a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire there was the sound of a gentle whisper. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. And a voice said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" 1 Kings 19:11-13

And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him. Hebrews 11:6

How do we meet God face to face?

1. Give him priority
2. Get alone
3. Expect him to show up

Start talking.

- Pastor Ryan mentioned that our lowest moments often follow the mountaintop experience. Have you ever seen this at work in your life?
- Why is it so challenging to hear God's voice? What's the biggest issue you face?

Start thinking.

- Read Psalm 139:17-18. What stands out to you in these verses? What would be different in your life if you lived into the truth of this passage?
- Why is getting alone and ridding ourselves of distraction so important to hearing God's voice?
- Pastor Joel talked about Jesus as Lord during the first week of the series while Ryan addressed God's goodness. Is there a contradiction between God's holiness and His grace?

Start sharing.

- How would you describe the quality of your time with the Lord?
- What have your mountaintop, face to face encounters with the Lord looked like in the past?
- Why do we often have such low expectations in life, particularly when it comes to our expectations around the work of God?

Start doing.

- Where do you need to give God priority in your life? What have you allowed to become more important than Him?
- How would you like to shift or shape your time alone with the Father this week?