

Scott's Thoughts

June 30, 2024



“He said, “I have been very jealous for the Lord, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away.” (1 Kings 19:10, ESV)

Elijah was expressing to God how he was feeling. He had stood before the people and the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal then defeated the prophets of Baal and put them to death. What an incredible victory! But where was his recognition for this great victory? Instead, Queen Jezebel heard that her prophets had been killed and she made an oath to kill Elijah. Now he is feeling all alone and helpless, so he went into hiding. Elijah went from victor to fugitive in record time. Here is the prophet of God hiding in a cave from a threat by a Queen. Yet, she could not protect her own prophets, so how was she going to destroy God’s servant?

Despite mankind's fear of others, God still directs our way. Elijah was a great prophet and the things he suffered are the same things that plague God’s people today. It is the feeling, “I am the only one who cares.” “I am all alone.” Of course, that is not true. God had more work for Elijah to do. Elijah fell a little short in his count of surviving servants of God. All he could see was himself in his own corner of life. God spoke to him telling him that He had reserved SEVEN THOUSAND people besides Elijah who had not bowed down to Baal. (That is about three times the

number of people who live in Newkirk.) We all have good days and bad days. After a victory it is easy to get discouraged. It could be because we are the only ones who know how much effort went into that victory. It does not take long for accolades to fade, and we are left wondering if it was really worth all the effort we put into the project.

We have our “to do” lists and it changes from day to day. The list changes when we complete a task. It could change because we have something new to add. At times, a change becomes urgent because someone somewhere else has a need that is suddenly greater than anything on our list. Despite mankind's plans for ourselves and others, God still directs our way.

After the success, the question should not be, what do I do for an encore? It should be, Father, what is next on your to-do list for me? Rather than hiding in a cave, we need to be actively seeking something else to keep us sharp and useful to both God and others. I wonder in those moments of self-doubt what difference it could make if we would take the time to look around here or those God has reserved. If we look around, we can find others who are just as excited about working for God as we are. Can you imagine what kind of City we would have if we had every single person in Newkirk working for God?

“Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me.” (John 16:32, ESV)

Thanks for listening and keep on shining.

—Scott