



## Small Groups – Sermon Notes Week of February 28

### **1 Kings 19:1-9a**

*Elijah Flees from Jezebel*

Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, 'So may the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life like the life of one of them by this time tomorrow.' Then he was afraid; he got up and fled for his life, and came to Beer-sheba, which belongs to Judah; he left his servant there.

But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: 'It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors.' Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, 'Get up and eat.' He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. He ate and drank and lay down again. The angel of the Lord came a second time, touched him, and said, 'Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you.' He got up and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food for forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God. At that place he came to a cave and spent the night there.

### Fill in the Blanks

1. This is his place of \_\_\_\_\_. He wants to be \_\_\_\_\_, but \_\_\_\_\_ are there with him under that solitary broom tree.
2. Our translation tells us that Elijah is \_\_\_\_\_, but the Hebrew word that is used here is the same word that is used when the \_\_\_\_\_ touches \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ his \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Love will not concede our moments of \_\_\_\_\_ to the forces of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. Love is \_\_\_\_\_ and love is \_\_\_\_\_.
4. And when we know it is a “Malak Adonai”, a \_\_\_\_\_, a \_\_\_\_\_ from God that tells Elijah, that tells us, “Get up and eat, otherwise the way ahead will be too much for you,” that \_\_\_\_\_ everything.
5. How \_\_\_\_\_ does God’s love have to be with us before it \_\_\_\_\_ us and makes us \_\_\_\_\_ and makes us \_\_\_\_\_ more?

### General Questions:

1. What stood out to you in the sermon?
2. What is something new you didn’t know before?
3. Is there a question that the sermon prompted for/in you?
4. How do you feel called to respond to the sermon?

### Discussion Questions

1. Pastor Nate talks about how Elijah is in a place of “too much”. Discuss Elijah’s place of “too much”. Have you ever been in this place of “too much”? How did you experience God’s “tenacious” love in such a place?
2. An OT commentator, Sara Koenig, says this: “While we can surmise from verse 8 that Elijah’s request to die is not answered, verses 5-7 contain an important divine response to Elijah: sending an angel and provisions of food, specifically a “cake baked on coals, and a jar of water” (verse 6). The Hebrew word used for coals (*resapim*) only

appears here and in Isaiah 6:6, referring to the coal that touched Isaiah’s lips to purify him. The word used for jar (*sapphat*) is another uncommon one but occurred in 1 Kings 17:12-16 to refer to the jar of oil belonging to the widow of Zarephath.” How is this significant to what Elijah is going through? What does this tell us about God’s call and provisions in our lives?

Also think about what Pastor Nate said about how the word “touch” is the same word used when Jacob dislocates his hip in Genesis 32:22-32. What do you think is the significance of that? How are those two touches—the touch of angel to wake up Elijah and touch that dislocates Jacob’s hip—one and the same?

3. Continue reading to verse 18 to see what happens to Elijah. How do you think Elijah has changed throughout the chapter? What do you think accounts for those changes? What about you? How have your encounters with God in the wilderness and cave transformed you?

### Beyond Questions

1. Who are the people in our lives and in our world traveling in the desert—the wilderness—where the journey is “too much” for them? Physically, socially, spiritually. Share your thoughts and come up with ways you can show God’s tenacious love to them.
2. Spend some time sharing prayer requests and praying for each other.