

Hiding with Heaven

I Kings 19:1-18

Heaven ... Hears Us, Helps Us, Hangs Out with Us, and Hijacks Us with Plans to Transform the World

Hears Us (I Kings 19:1-5)

- Elijah experiences fear, depression, and hopeless despair.
- The broom tree is a desert shrub that symbolizes moments of despair & divine encounter.
- Job describes the broom tree as a place of desolation, ruin, and abandonment (Job 30:3-4)
- The Psalmist connects the broom tree with mourning, distress, and punishment (120).
- Genesis 21 describes a young mother sent out with little to sustain her. Water ran out and she put her son under a broom tree to die, then sat down and wept.
- God knows our address (emotionally, mentally, physically, spiritually and geographically).

Emotion is at the heart of the relational life of a family. The building blocks of a family are emotional bonds ... Home is more than a geographical address, for when we describe being "at home" we are referring to an emotional state, and experience of belonging. Emotion Focused Family Therapy, Furrow

Helps Us (I Kings 19:5-9)

- In the midst of fear and depression, heaven responds to Elijah.
 - » The Lord's heart is the same toward us.
 - » Rested. Restored. Replenished. Recovering from fear.
- Sometimes the journey really is too much without the Lord.
- *Strengthened* by food. 40 day / year reminder.
- The Lord Speaks to us through the stories of those that have gone before us.
- We all deal with fear. It's how we respond to it.
- You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. Jeremiah 29:13

Hangs Out with Us (I Kings 19:9-14)

- God knows the question to ask to pierce the heart of the matter.
- The question implies God didn't send him to the cave of his fears ... but he meets him there!
- Elijah experiences loneliness. God meets him in a gentle whisper.

Hijacks Us with Plans to Transform the World (I Kings 9:15-18)

- Aram already had King Ben Hadad. Hazael was a servant of Ben Hadad.
- Jehu was the Captain of the army under Israel.
- God's plan through Elijah was for him to empower leaders and spiritually father Elisha.
 - » This word must have brought Elijah hope.
- Often, God uses hidden people in our lives to remind us we are not alone.
- Some want earthquakes, wind, and fire more than they want the Whisper.

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