

Sermon ~ Sunday, May 29, 2022, by Pastor Dwight Benoit

Text: I Kings 19: 1-18

Title: "The Mission Impossible!"

The *adjective* "impossible" expresses, it is not able to happen. It can not exist. It cannot be done.

The *noun* "mission" Biblically declares, **GOD** going after lost humanity. **GOD'S** assignment. **GOD'S** COMmission.

Which are you on? An "Impossible Mission?" or **"The Mission Impossible?"**

What a contrast/change of scene from *victory* in I Kings, chapter 18 to *defeat* in I Kings, chapter 19.

Nugget. "Often, our greatest trials follow our greatest blessings!"

In the context, **"The Man of GOD"** allows his **Eyes of Faith in GOD**, to shift, and he becomes a mere man of fear." Yet **GOD** for **HIS Name's** sake, keeps him on **The Mission Impossible!**

Point. When GOD'S Mission Call seems Impossible, you need to be Refreshed!

James 5: 17, "Elijah was a man subject to like passions as we are..."

--a **Mighty Man of GOD** but *clay*.

--a **Courageous Man of GOD** but *clay*.

--a **Man of GOD** with **GOD Authority** but *clay*.

Subject to the same *trials*, the same *troubles*, the same *tribulations*, the same *temptations*.

The same *failures* as any other human being.

How strange it was, that Elijah could *face* 450 false prophets who worshipped the false god *Baal* and 400 more false prophets who worshipped the false god *Asherah* and not be afraid (I Kings 18). But *in* (I Kings 19) Elijah, **The Man of GOD**, is running from the threat of a woman, named Jezebel, King Ahab's wife.

Running **The SCRIPTURES** said. Oh, he had to have been *tired*, *wearry*, and *drained physically* and *emotionally*, after all day, *contesting* with 850 false prophets on Mt. Carmel and having *prayed twice*, before **GOD** answered his prayer, to "rain down fire" from on high, to "prove" as he said, **If The LORD be GOD, follow HIM: but if Baal, then follow him.**" (I Kings 18: 21)

But the *main reason* Elijah is running (Chapter 19) is because Elijah is *failing* "spiritually."

He saw (heard) Jezebel and *failed* to see (hear) **The LORD!** He *listened* to Jezebel's threats and forgot to *wait* for **GOD'S Promise**.

Elijah knew what it meant *to wait on The LORD*...

--I Kings 17: 1, 2 "And Elijah the Tishbite, *who* said unto Ahab, As **The LORD GOD** of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to **MY WORD**. V. 2, And **The WORD of The LORD** came unto him saying..."

--I Kings 18: 1 "And it came to pass *after* many days, that **The WORD of The LORD** came to Elijah in the third year, saying, Go, show thyself unto Ahab; and I will send rain upon the earth."

--I Kings 18: 36 "And it came to pass at *the time of* the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, **LORD GOD...**, let it be known this day *that THOU art GOD... that I am THY* servant, and *that* I have done all these things at **THY WORD**.

But now, Elijah is *impatient*... *Impatience* leads to *disobedience*. *Disobedience* leads to *defeat*.

Nugget. Elijah no longer risked his life for **GOD'S Glory**; rather he was trying to save his life for his own sake.

JESUS said, "For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for **MY** sake shall find it."

Nugget. The steps of the *Godly* are ordered by **The LORD** (Psalms 37: 23). But the steps of the *unbelieving/disobedient* only leads to trouble.

Elijah ran to Judah, where King Ahab's daughter, was reigning with Jehoram who was King. (2 Kings 8: 16-18)

Nugget. When its all about *me*, we get real sick with a bad case of *amnesia* and run to trouble vs. away from trouble.

Elijah ran 80 miles into greater danger! All *dejected* (sad/depressed), Elijah left his servant in Judah and ran to the country. He left his servant there...

Don't The Bible read **GOD** made them *male* and *female*, *Adam* and *Eve*; *Moses* and *Joshua*; *Andrew* and *Peter*; *James* and *John*; **JESUS** and **HIS FATHER**...

Don't The BIBLE teach, "its better not to walk along..." Enoch walked with **GOD** (Genesis 5: 24) "Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labour: if either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity any one who falls and has no one to help them up." (Ecclesiastes 4: 9, 10)

"**JESUS** appointed other seventy also, and sent them two by two..." (Luke 10: 1)

Elijah all *exhausted*, laid down to sleep, and his bedtime prayer was, "**LORD** take away my life." [He really did not mean that...]

Nugget. You think "*dumb*" when you have your eyes on *you*, and what you've done (and not done), *instead* of **Faith in GOD**!

GOD let Elijah go to sleep. Not just for *physical* rest (**HE** maketh me to lie down... Psalm 23: 2a), but for a "*spiritual awakening*!" (*Meal* was prepared... *cake* baked on coals and a *cruise* of water was at his head) Elijah went back to sleep. (No evidence of him *repenting* or *confessing*)

The Angel of The LORD shook him awake and feed him again.

This time Elijah goes on The Mission Impossible!

Nugget. Though we may not see it, but **GOD'S Hand** guides us to Mt. Horeb (*where* we received our Calls); *where* **GOD'S WORD** is given, and, *where* backslidden/discouraged servants receive *fresh* **GRACE**!

Point. GOD refresh is enhanced after GOD rebuke!

V. 9 “**The WORD of GOD** came to him in a cave...” **The WORD**, “What doest thou here... What are you doing here, Elijah?” [We need to ask ourselves this question?]

Elijah’s answer revealed his heart... “Everybody in Israel...” (v. 10) again in v. 14, because the children of Israel... not because of *my* pride, *my* self-vindication, not because “its *me*, its *me*, it’s *me* O LORD, standing in the need of *compassion, forgiveness*, your answer to the problem!

Why did **The LORD** bring the *wind*, the *earthquake*, and the *fire*?

Nugget. **GOD** has many *tools* available to do **HIS Mission Impossible!**

When **GOD** spoke in “*the still small voice*” after the storm, **GOD** was showing Elijah, that **HIS** work is not always done in a *BIG, NOISY Way*!

Nugget. If **The WORD of GOD** can’t get it done, it won’t be done!

“*With men this is impossible; but with GOD all things are possible.*” (Matthew 19: 26)

Nugget. Stop complaining/grieving and get back to work...

The Mission Impossible!