

Elijah's Story: Unmet Expectations

I Kings 19

What happens to us when we have events take place that are unexpected and thoroughly disappointing, even devastating? What happens to people of faith when the disappointment is that from our perspective God has let us down? This serious question can invade our lives when we least expect it, as was the case for Elijah after his great victory on Mt. Carmel (the subject of chapter 18, which we covered last Sunday). Today's text reintroduces Elijah with a riveting story that speaks into the depths of our hearts, particularly when our lives are not going as we expected.

1) **How can a person of profound faith in God be moved to despair?**

2) **How does God minister to us in moments of desperation?**

Elijah went to a cave on Mt. Horeb (aka Mt. Sinai).

When my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by.
— Exodus 33:22

God manifests himself in multiple ways:

Earthquake:

At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split. — Matthew 27:51

...the whole mountain trembled violently. — Genesis 19:18b

Wind:

Then the Lord answered Job out of the storm. — Job 38:1

Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. — Acts 2:2

Fire:

When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking firepot with a blazing torch appeared and passed between the pieces. — Genesis 15:17

There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. — Exodus 3:2

3) **How does God's word of grace change everything for us?**