Victory Over Adversity

Tony Mauck · 1 Kings 19:1–18

INTRODUCTION

- Characters of faith in the Bible are sometimes regarded almost as superheroes with whom it is a little bit difficult to relate.
- Elijah was a man with a nature like ours. He's not so much different than us.
- One thing it means is our dedication, our undaunting commitment to the worship of God and our dedication to spiritual things.

1 The Righteous Are Forewarned of Difficulty

Psalm 73; 1 Peter 4:18; 2 Timothy 3:12

- We don't have any app, anything or anyone who can shield us from the adversities of life.
- Instead, scripture attests that the righteous often find themselves envious of the lives of the wicked, whose circumstances are better than theirs.
- The righteous are forewarned of difficulty.
- Yea, all who live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.
- Not only are we going to suffer, we're to rejoice in it.

2 Expect the Expected

Psalm 73

- Unexpected and undesirable things beset us all.
- Elijah was probably thinking big changes are coming. Certainly the lesson has been learned. Ahab has been humbled. He's going to wake up. But listen, evil never sleeps.
- When adversity comes our way, we need to still be affirming and singing, God is so good.
- Instead, we ought to say, why not me?
- Expect the unexpected. Perhaps we should call it instead, expect the expected. Because it shouldn't really blindside us.

3 You Feel Abandoned, but You've Not Been Abandoned

1 Kings 19:10–14; Psalm 22:1

- But the Lord was not in the wind. And after the wind, an earthquake. But the Lord was not in an earthquake.
- After the fire, a sound of a gentle blowing.
- I know it feels like it. But I've not abandoned you. You feel abandoned, but you've not been abandoned.
- David is strongly affirming in that Psalm while he feels forsaken that God is with him.

4 Look Not at the Problem, but the Provision

1 Kings 19:18; Galatians 6:2

- God is stronger than whatever comes your way. He wants us to survive and to succeed in faith.
- Look not at the problem, but the provision. Elijah could only see what was missing or what was amiss. God showed him what was still there and what was still right.
- The faithful are still there. As he goes on to say, there are yet seven thousand in Israel that have not bowed the knee to Baal.
- Elijah's vision narrowed to the extent that all he saw was himself and his pain.
- You get involved serving others and helping them so that your focus gets beyond yourself.

5 Keep Your Eyes Trained Upon the Promise

2 Kings 2:11; 1 Peter 4:19; 1 John 5:4

- Our transport to glory approaches. We must persevere in faith.
- Entrust your soul to a faithful creator in doing what is right.
- This is the victory that overcomes the world, even our faith.
- The troubles of the road, as severe as they seem, they pale in comparison to the glory that he now shares with God.

THE CHALLENGE

I don't know how much pain you will experience in your life or how deep that pain will be. But if you persevere in faith, it will be worth it ultimately.

MY NOTES