

**Welcome:** We would like to welcome you here today for our worship service with our theme today **“The Lord is my Provision.”** This is message two in our series “Trials of the Prophets.” “Note” the messages each week are also available on the sermon player on our web page [www.lightofchristwi.org](http://www.lightofchristwi.org).

### Sermon Outline

1. What is God telling you in the context?

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2. What are you hearing from the story, what verses stand out to you?

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3. What is Jesus doing in your life right now as you respond to the message?

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4. How is Jesus challenging you as you listened to today’s message?

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5. What do you believe Jesus wants you to do this week?

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### Main thoughts of the sermon message:

1. **In life when we experience spiritual victories they are often followed by attacks by the enemy.** But what does the Lord reveal to us in His word...how we can protect ourselves from the enemy so we don’t fall into his traps after a spiritual victory?
  - a. *The Lord calls us to put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. Eph. 6:11. Putting on the full armor of God means staying close to Jesus, his word, and being guided by the Holy Spirit as you fight the battle.*
2. **God’s word He teaches us that we are meant to depend on God for provision.** In our story today, the provision of food and water by an Angel allowed Elijah to regain his strength, and to be encouraged along his journey of faith. Philippians 4:19 *And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.*
3. **When the Lord wants us to move to the plan He has for us he often asks the question...what are you doing here?**
4. **Sermon Reflection:** As we reflect on the message today God plans often involve spiritual battles, provisions only the Lord can provide and challenging assignments, and at the same time the Lord walks with us on our journey for Jesus says in Matthew 28:20 *And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”*
  - a. What spiritual battles are you in right now?

- b. How is the Lord providing for you during this battle?
- c. What challenging assignment is the Lord leading you to undertake?
- d. How is the Lord walking with you during this time in your life?

**Message 03 / Series: The Trials of the Prophets / Theme: Elijah Conversations with God– 1 Kings 19:1-18.**

1. Open with prayer
2. Review the guidelines below
3. **Note: Tell the people that as you tell the story to put yourself into the story...be Elijah.**
4. Tell the story orally
5. Rebuild the story
6. Read the story
7. Go to the questions of the heart



**TARGET**

We want the participants to understand why they are here and to lay a foundation of the guidelines for small group's discussions. It is helpful to go over these guidelines briefly every time your huddle meets.

**SMALL GROUP / HUDDLE GUIDELINES**

**SAFE ENVIRONMENT:** This needs to be a place where people feel comfortable opening up and sharing with one another. Below are some guidelines that will help create a safe environment:

**CONFIDENTIALITY:** What is said in the group stays in the group.

**LISTEN:** Let's value one another during the discussion by really listening to what is being shared. Try to avoid thinking about how you are going to respond, or what you are going to say next.

**PAUSE:** Allow a pause in conversation after someone shares. Give the person sharing the chance to finish and the group the opportunity to consider what was just shared before responding.

**SILENCE:** It is important to allow silence in the group as it provides an opportunity for someone to share and for members in the group to process the topic or question being considered.

**NO “CROSS TALK”:** Be considerate of others as they are sharing. No side conversations.

**NO FIXING:** We are not here to fix each other. Jesus does that part. Give encouragement; speak truth, point to Jesus. Don’t try to solve or fix each other.

**NO RESCUING:** When people are sharing something deeply personal, there can be a tendency to try to make them feel better about themselves or the situation by providing immediate condolences. This will often cause them to stop sharing. Resist the temptation to rescue people.

**SHARING:** Be sensitive about the amount of time you share.

**BE SELF-AWARE:** Be self-aware of how you are personally effecting the environment through your words, actions, and non-verbal communication.

**“I” STATEMENTS:** It’s easy to talk about the issues of others, but for our purposes, we want you to put yourself on the table. Try to use “I” statements rather than “them”, “the church,” “us” “we”, etc.

**LISTEN TO THE STORY:** When the story is being presented the most effective way to understand the story at this point is just listen...don’t try to follow along in your bible. Opening the Bill will come later.

**CONFLICT:** We will commit to resolve conflict biblically. When conflict or sin issues between group members arise, we want to make sure that we are honoring God and each other in the way we deal with these issues. The following are a few key Scriptures in this regard (there are many others)

- If someone sins against you
  - Matthew 18:15-20
- Restoring someone in sin:
  - Galatians 6:1-5
- Forgive a sinner:
  - Colossians 3:12-13
- Reconciling differences
  - Matthew 5:23-24, Matthew 7:1-5

**Message 03 / Series: The Trials of the Prophets / Theme: Elijah Conversations with God – 1 Kings 19:1-18.**

*Elijah Flees to Horeb*

**19** Now Ahab told Jezebel everything Elijah had done and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. <sup>2</sup> So Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah to say, “May the gods deal with me, be it ever so severely, if by this time tomorrow I do not make your life like that of one of them.”

<sup>3</sup> Elijah was afraid and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there, <sup>4</sup> while he himself went a day’s journey into the desert. He came to a broom tree, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. “I have had enough, Lord,” he said. “Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors.” <sup>5</sup> Then he lay down under the tree and fell asleep.

All at once an angel touched him and said, “Get up and eat.”<sup>6</sup> He looked around, and there by his head was a cake of bread baked over hot coals, and a jar of water. He ate and drank and then lay down again.

<sup>7</sup>The angel of the Lord came back a second time and touched him and said, “Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you.”<sup>8</sup> So he got up and ate and drank. Strengthened by that food, he traveled forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God.<sup>9</sup> There he went into a cave and spent the night.

### *The Lord Appears to Elijah*

And the word of the Lord came to him: “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

<sup>10</sup>He replied, “I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, broken down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too.”

<sup>11</sup>The Lord said, “Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.”

Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake.<sup>12</sup> After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper.<sup>13</sup> When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave.

Then a voice said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

<sup>14</sup>He replied, “I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, broken down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too.”

<sup>15</sup>The Lord said to him, “Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael king over Aram.<sup>16</sup> Also, anoint Jehu son of Nimshi king over Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed you as prophet.<sup>17</sup> Jehu will put to death any who escape the sword of Hazael, and Elisha will put to death any who escape the sword of Jehu.<sup>18</sup> Yet I reserve seven thousand in Israel—all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal and all whose mouths have not kissed him.”

[\*The Holy Bible: New International Version\*](#). (1984). (1 Ki 19:1–18). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

### **Questions of the Heart**

1. What verse or verses spoke to you or verse that the Lord gave you revelation about?
2. Elijah just experienced one of the greatest events of his ministry at Mt. Carmel...it was literally a mountain top experience. Now in verse 3 and 4 he is running for his life. What does this tell us about the humanity of Elijah? Also, when we have experienced great spiritual victories why is it we are often attacked spiritually soon after?
  - a. Tell about a time when you experienced a significant spiritual victory followed by a deep valley.
  - b. What did the Lord teach you in this experience?
3. Why is discouragement from the enemy such a powerful tool against us?
4. If you have ever been around small kids when they become tired and hungry nothing seems to go right...how are we also like that as adults?

- a. How does having something to eat and rest affect Elijah in a positive way?
  - b. The enemy will often wait until we are tired and hungry before he attacks us. If that is true what does it tell us about the strategy of the enemy?
  - c. In Matthew 4:1-2...*It says "then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. After fasting 40 days and 40 nights he was hungry."*
    - i. What does the above verse tell us about the strategy of the enemy against Jesus?
  - d. How does having someone in our life to encourage us make a difference in our life when we become discouraged and want to give up?
  - e. Tell about a time when you were discouraged and a friend came along beside you and made a huge difference helping you get up and move forward in a positive way?
5. What do we learn about the Lord when He sends an angel to help Elijah in verse 7?
- a. Hebrews 1:14 says, "*Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?*" What does this tell us about the work of angels as we walk through life and the impact that they have even when we don't know they are working. (Like a toddler not realizing what their parents are doing)
6. Why does the Lord ask Elijah in verse "What are you doing here?"
- a. What can we learn from this conversation with the Lord...from God's perspective?
  - b. What do we learn about Elijah from his perspective?
  - c. How can being discouraged affect our outlook in ministry?
  - d. In 1 Thessalonians in the New Testament it says in 5:11 – *Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.*
    - i. Why is encouraging so important?
7. In verse 11 – 12 different events happen:
- a. A powerful wind
  - b. The Earthquake
  - c. Fire
  - d. Then the Whisper
    - i. Why do you think the Lord spoke in a whisper?
    - ii. If the Lord speaks in a whisper...how quiet do we need to be and focused to hear the Lord verse a strong wind or an earthquake. Why would that be? What does that tell us about how the Lord communicates with us via the Holy Spirit.
    - iii. Tell about a time when the Lord was nudging you with a whisper to do something in the Kingdom of God.
    - iv. *John 10:27 says, "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me."*
      1. What is this verse saying to me in connection with listening and following?
8. As we read verses 13-18...how does taking time to listen to the Lord change our perspective of what reality is?
- a. Have you ever felt like Elijah...if so how did the Lord encourage you?
9. In verses 15-17 the Lord has work for Elijah to do...what does this tell about God's relationship with Elijah even after Elijah was discouraged?

- a. How does the Lord telling us to dust ourselves off, get up, and I have more work for you to do affect us in a positive way?
10. While Elijah thought, he was the only one serving God from his perspective...the God of heaven new there were 7000 times as many as Elijah thought. How would knowing that encourage Elijah?
11. If you would like to share...have you ever had a time when you felt like Elijah and the Lord came along side you and lifted you up.
12. What can we learn from the life of Elijah?
13. What does this story tell us about God?

### **Application and accountability**

1. What is our theme for our message this today?
2. As you reflect on this story what is the Lord telling you that you need to do or maybe change in your life? Why is that a challenge for you? How can we hold you accountable to accomplish what the Lord wants you to do?
3. Who do you think needs to hear this story?

### **Close with prayer**