

You just need a whisper

1 Kings 19 - Elijah Escapes from Jezebel (NKJV)

1 And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, also how he had executed all the prophets with the sword. 2 Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time." 3 And when he saw that, he arose and ran for his life, and went to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there.

4 But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he prayed that he might die, and said, "It is enough! Now, LORD, take my life, for I am no better than my fathers!"

5 Then as he lay and slept under a broom tree, suddenly an angel^[a] touched him, and said to him, "Arise and eat." 6 Then he looked, and there by his head was a cake baked on coals, and a jar of water. So he ate and drank, and lay down again. 7 And the angel^[b] of the LORD came back the second time, and touched him, and said, "Arise and eat, because the journey is too great for you." 8 So he arose, and ate and drank; and he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights as far as Horeb, the mountain of God.

9 And there he went into a cave, and spent the night in that place; and behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and He said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

10 So he said, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God of hosts; for the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life."

God's Revelation to Elijah

11 Then He said, "Go out, and stand on the mountain before the LORD." And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; 12 and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice.

13 So it was, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. Suddenly a voice came to him, and said, "What are you doing here,

Elijah?”

14 And he said, “I have been very zealous for the LORD God of hosts; because the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life.”

15 Then the LORD said to him: “Go, return on your way to the Wilderness of Damascus; and when you arrive, anoint Hazael as king over Syria. 16 Also you shall anoint Jehu the son of Nimshi as king over Israel. And Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel Meholah you shall anoint as prophet in your place. 17 It shall be that whoever escapes the sword of Hazael, Jehu will kill; and whoever escapes the sword of Jehu, Elisha will kill. 18 Yet I have reserved seven thousand in Israel, all whose knees have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.”

Elisha Follows Elijah

19 So he departed from there, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he was with the twelfth. Then Elijah passed by him and threw his mantle on him. 20 And he left the oxen and ran after Elijah, and said, “Please let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you.”

And he said to him, “Go back again, for what have I done to you?”

21 So Elisha turned back from him, and took a yoke of oxen and slaughtered them and boiled their flesh, using the oxen’s equipment, and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he arose and followed Elijah, and became his servant.

God doesn't come to yell at us all that often. But when God speaks a quite whisper in our lives, it is one of the most life transforming experiences that we could imagine. Just a quite gentle word and everything inside of us, stand to attention. There is nothing more powerful than a word from God.

Elijah was one of the most powerful prophets in all of scripture, when he prayed, rain fell from the skies. When he prayed fire fell he had such a relationship with God, that through his prayer life he could change nature and the effect of nature. He also effected the whole economy of a nation through his prayer life.

We read however that his whole life was rocked, when he received a letter from Mrs. Ahab better known as Jezebel and this letter said 'as I have done to the other prophets (meaning killed them) so will I do to you by this time tomorrow.'

Now I would like to propose that if she really wanted to kill him, she wouldn't have sent a letter, she would have sent an assassin. There was something much more sinister she was doing here, she was warning him to run in fear. He was a Hero to Israel but when he got this letter he was under total pressure, to say the least. You can imagine that his picture was everywhere 'Elijah wanted Dead or Alive'. He knew she was trying to kill him.

He gets depressed and goes to sit under the tree and gets even more depressed but God sends an Angel. It is really encouraging is it not, that when we find ourselves totally wrecked and depressed from fighting the fight, God sends his angels to those who are struggling. And he went for 40 days on that meal which the angel prepared for him.

But then he found himself a cave (symbolic of him caving in) and he just wants to hide himself from the light and die, because his whole world is caving in. Then in that cave God speaks to him and says 'What are you doing here?' he answered 'I am here and depressed because I want to be.' and God just simply says to him 'Step out of this cave'.

He steps out of the cave and all of the sudden scripture says that God passed by. Then came a whirlwind, a tornado, a mighty wind blew, but the Bible says 'but God was not in the wind!' and then intimidated after that, fire starts to fall, and part of the mountain starts to catch fire and burn. Elijah is standing there, amazed by what he is seeing with his own eyes, but the Bible says 'God was not in the fire.' Then all the sudden an Earthquake hits and the whole mountain starts to shake, until the

rocks start to fall down the mountain but the bible says 'that God was not in the Earthquake'.

Now that is not to say the God was never in these things, he was in wind 'If you don't believe me, ask the 120 in the upper room, he came in a mighty rushing wind. There was a time when he was in the fire, ask the three Hebrew friends as their were in the fiery furnace, then was a time when in the earthquake, ask Paul and Silas(?) when they were locked up in the Jail and God sent a earthquake, broke the chains and opened the doors.

But now God isn't in the earthquake, he isn't in the fire or the mighty wind, but he shows back up, the Bible says that after he saw these amazing, spectacular, unbelievable things, he turned back around and went right back into the cave and caved in again.

This really tells me, it is possible to be in a service where the wind is blowing, the fire is falling and the earth shaking with the power and you don't get anything out of it, and as soon as the service is over, you just go right back into your cave and cave in. But watch this, when he goes back into the cave, that voice comes back and asks 'what are you doing in here?' he said I am depressed because I want to be' and God said 'This time I am going to speak to you'. The Bible says, after the fire there was a still, small voice' and gentle whisper one translation says. The power of a whisper from God! It can change everything in your life. The one word from God, that one quite whisper is more powerful than all the forces of nature. He got one voice, one whisper, nothing dynamic, simply 'Elijah, it's over, come out of the cave.'

I want to show you the power of a whisper God said, go and anoint Jehu, Hazael and Elisha in your place. It really takes a big man to anoint someone to take their place. How many of you are ready to allow someone to take your place?

But the scripture says Elijah left the cave and anointed Elisha, and that is all he did, he was off to heaven. But then Elisha sent his servant and anointed Jehu and then Jehu sent his servant and anointed Hazael a generation after. What we see clearly here is that three generations were impacted, by one whisper, in one man's ear, in the dark cave of his life.

Do you understand, that some of the most powerful times when we can hear God's voice is when we are so desperate, and have tuned everything else out, because we just need to hear his voice, and he speaks, not even shouts, but just that quite whisper changes everything in our lives. We say if I could only see an angel, or if I could only see a miracle. But the Bible says 'Man shall not live by

bread alone, but by every word (it is not even plural, it is singular, it is not by the all the words but by every word – If we only get a word) that proceeds from the mouth of God. That mean that even if we just hear one words from God, that gives us the power to go against anything which comes against us. The Word of God is a proceeding word, that mean that if the storms come, you can proceed through it, to where God wants you to be.

The Second thing I want to ask you, is have you ever been in a situation where you listened to God, but then things came into your life, and you know he wasn't in it. Then you have a real problem, your like 'I am sure I heard God, but then why..' I have found myself in many situation, and like Elijah looking at the fire, I was looking at it the storm, the whirlwind, the earthquake and all I knew was God is not in this, this is not from God. But can I tell you, that even when you find yourself in these situations, if you listen to the still small voice.

I mean when you find yourself in situation like Isaac found himself in. He found himself tired to an alter with a dagger pointing toward his heart and he had nothing to do with it, it was something that was between his dad and God. And all the his Dad was going on was a whisper, because at the bottom of the mountain he heard God say, (for the first time in the Bible) I am Jehovah Jireh, the lord shall provide. Then Abraham is like, boy we need to climb this mountain. Isaac 'why we doing this daddy?' 'Jehovah Jireh', he just keeps hearing the whisper. He is starting to build the alter, and is like 'God we are running out of time now' but he has the whisper 'Jehovah Jireh' I am just about to lost this boy which I waited over a 100 years for, but 'Jehovah Jireh', he has the knife in his hand, and is about to stick it down, but 'Jehovah Jireh' But can I tell you, it doesn't matter how many knives are pointing at you, if you have just one whisper from God 'no weapon formed against you shall prosper! And suddenly the still small voice said 'Stop'.. now I know, I have you, a man of faith, a man of obedience.

Sometime you need to go a long time on the same word. There are times when God comes and speak to us, and then it is like he has gone on holidays! Then we need to go such a long time on that one word which he has given us. You think right you have gone such a long time since God told you to do this thing, or gave you the calling for this ministry. Well put your self in Noah's shoes, Noah as far as we can tell from scripture had one visitation, one word from God in 120 years. God came down, said 'build a ark for the saving of your generation and you family, it's going rain.' and that was that for 120 years.

Now I can understand that, I mean if God came and spoke to me in a visitation like that, I could

living on the word for a few month, maybe even a few years, but what really got about this story, is that God only spoke to Noah, his with and his children didn't hear it. So now he doesn't only have the responsibility of building the ark, but of getting his wife and kids to understand, even though they have not heard what he has heard.

Now anyone knows that there are many difference between men and women, and one of these are that Men are headliners and women are detailers. For example, we are happy to sit, watch the news headlines, and then start flicking through the channels, women want to know the details. Men are happy to know that Joe bloggs was on holidays, women want to know, where he was? When he went? How long he was there? Who he was with? Why he was with them? How old they where? What did they do? What was the weather like the morning of the first day? What was the weather like the afternoon of the first day?.....

Now imagine with me, the question which Noah faced after year 30. I mean 30 years have gone my, and Noah has been building the ark, day after day, and nothing has happened. Noah is going home, every day, and his wife doesn't want to know any more the headlines 'Rain is coming' she wants to know the details!!! 'What does Rain look like then Noah??' (because remember they had never seen rain before) What shape is it? What does it feel like? What does it do? What does it do? When will it start? Are you sure you heard God? Are you sure you hadn't been drinking?

And to be honest after 30 years, I could have answered 'maybe' and I would have been really like 'God you need to come back down here, I need another revelation!' But Noah just kept on building the ark, saved his family because of of whisper!!

The first ministry utterance of Jesus Matthew 4:4 'it is written!', the first utterance of Satan in the Bible 'has God really said?' Satan always raise doubt 'has God said' but Jesus always raises faith 'It is written.' When you start hearing these voices saying 'has God really said?' 'Didn't you just imaging that?' 'weren't you just emotionally attached', 'weren't you just bored and needed something to do?' You need to catch the word and say 'It is written'.

2 Peter 1 says -

16 When we told you about the powerful coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, we were not telling just clever stories that someone invented. But we saw the greatness of Jesus with our own eyes. **17** Jesus heard the voice of God, the Greatest Glory, when he received honour and glory from God the Father. The voice said, "This is my Son, whom I love, and I am very pleased with him."**18**We heard

that voice from heaven with our very own ears while we were with Jesus on the holy mountain. And then he says in verse 19 'And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts'

He is saying I know that what we believe is true, because I seen it with my very own eyes, I heard it with my very own ears. It was amazing.

Let me tell you something that is really true. If God came here today, and totally shock this building, we would be like WOW! And we would be talking about it for the next 10 years. But then after 10 years we would be like 'Did that really happen?' Was it a natural earthquake? Did we just imagine it?' But the amazing thing about getting a certain word from the book is that it doesn't matter what happened, we can go back to the book and say 'Here it is! I know what the book says!'

Listen!! One day Jesus said to his disciplines 'go to the other side of the lake.' and the bible says that Jesus had to constrain them, meaning that they didn't want to go. Now why?? Well what we need to see is that they were hardened fishermen, they weren't just like us. This is something which I have been learning this year with the farmers also. I will go out, it is a sunny day, and I have a t-shirt on, and then will say to me, 'take a jacket, it will rain this afternoon', they study the skies, because their livelihood relies on it. And this was the same for the disciples, they were hardened fishermen, and well as for us, we would have looked and thought, yeah, a nice day to sail the ship, suns out... They could see the clouds in the distance, by the feel of the wind the blueness of the sky, they knew it was a bad idea. This is why it says he had to constrain them, meaning force them to go'.

Now the bible says, that they went and in the forth watch, which means, they were about 5 miles out, that is just about 2 far out to turn back. Have you ever found yourself in a position where God has taken you, and you are now just two far to turn back. And then the storm comes! I mean when you were where you used to be, it wasn't a problem, but now!!!

But can I tell you 'stop complaining about the storm' the storm is always just a gateway. And if your in the will of God and your in the storm, just look up, because Jesus will come to you walking on the water. He always does!! He is not going to leave you. It is not his will, he will do it every time.

Do you know why he came walking on the water? He came there and said 'don't be afraid' and they all were there, but only one stood up and said 'Lord if that is you, ask me to come'. And then Peter

gets one whisper, one word, not even a sentence, he gets 'Come'.

He gets up on the edge of that boat, and I can see Andrew his brother thinking 'How am I going to explain this to mama', Thomas is saying, he is 5ft 9, 13stone... 13 stone I tell you, he will sink they a stone.'

But he got one word, one whisper saying 'come' and the Bible says, Jesus was there walking on the water. In other words, then thing which threatened their lives, was already under the feet of Jesus. The writer of Ephesians said, and after he died and rose again... all things have been put under his feet. Which means the things which the enemy threatens you with, and threatens to sink you with, is already under the feet of Jesus. And if he see you sinking and going under, he will reach out and lift you up, and you shall have them under your feet.

If only you go on the power of the whisper!! The Bible says in the book of Matthew, that as soon as they got to the beach, and just as soon as they look up 2 men with demons start running toward them. Have you ever got through the storm and you are final on dry ground, and your like 'praise God I made it' and then all of the sudden, more problem just start running at you. But I want to tell you, the same one who took care of the storm, can take care of the demons. He is the God of Victory.

If we have the word, the Devil can only push us so far. Check this out 'Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life' so then when the devil run into our path, Goodness and Mercy push back. Your going to make it through this attack because Jesus said I am going to build my church, and the gate of hell are not going to prevail against it.