

OUTLINE • 12.2

- V. Elijah had a string of unbroken successes.
 - A. He won a face-off against 850 false prophets, he then killed those 850 false prophets (1 Kin. 18:17-40), and he prophesied, prayed for, and saw the end of a three-year drought (1 Kin. 18:41-46).
 - B. But he ended up running from Jezebel who'd threatened his life (1 Kin. 19:2).
 - C. This left Elijah wanting God to kill him (1 Kin. 19:4).
 - D. Elijah's story illustrates the point I'm making: You have to look unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of your faith and keep your attention on Him (Prov. 16:18).
 - E. The moment you start patting yourself on the back and believing your own press releases, you are in trouble—it doesn't matter what you accomplish; you are still only a man or a woman.
 - F. You aren't doing those things—God living in you is doing them.
 - G. Elijah didn't have the patience to endure in this situation, because he got caught up in pride.
 - H. If you aren't careful, the circumstances of life will cause you to take your eyes off Jesus.
 - I. Patience is the ability to fix your attention on Jesus, not looking to the right-hand or to the left—it's the ability to remain unmoved by your circumstances.
 - J. Just do what God told you to do until He tells you differently.
- VI. Like Elijah getting caught up in self-pity and saying something he knew was a lie (1 Kin. 19:10 and 18:13), this is what happens when you focus on your circumstances.
 - A. You know things aren't really as bad as you think they are, but you get so focused on the problem that it becomes overwhelming.
 - B. You have to put things into perspective: Stop focusing on your problems, and start focusing on God.
 - C. Some people miss God because they look for Him in the spectacular—but God delights in faith, and you need to be listening for Him in the still, small voice that is on the inside of you (1 Kin. 19:11-13).
 - D. Elijah did not fulfill God's purpose for his life, because he lost his focus (1 Kin. 19:15-17 and 19-21).
 - E. He got caught up in pride and took his attention off God—the Author and Finisher of his faith; he quit operating in patience.
 - F. Elijah missed it big time, but God still loved him (2 Kin. 2:11).

- G. You may have a tendency to think that God gets mad when you fail, because that's your experience in human relationships, but God doesn't operate that way.
- H. Even if you don't do everything that God calls you to do, His grace will still abound toward you (Rom. 5:20)—God will still love you.
- I. But you have a job to do, and it isn't just about you being blessed.
- J. A lot of people start the race, but not many stay at it over the long haul.
- K. Finishing is more important than starting.
- L. You inherit the promises through faith and patience.
- M. Make a commitment that you're going to love the Lord to the best of your ability.
- N. Determine now that you are going to keep running your race no matter what.
- O. You have to seek God with your whole heart—but it's worth it!

DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS • 12.2

18. Discussion question: What lessons can you learn from Elijah?

19. True or false: The moment you start patting yourself on the back and believing your own press releases, you are in trouble.

20. Why didn't Elijah have the patience to endure?

21. How long should you do what God told you to do?

22. Discussion question: Do you relate to the statement that “you know things aren't really as bad as you think they are, but you get so focused on the problem that it becomes overwhelming”? In what way? How did you resolve the situation?

23. Some people miss God because they look for Him in the _____—but God _____ in faith, and we need to be _____ for Him in the still, small voice that is on the inside of us (1 Kin. 19:11-13).

24. Did God stop loving Elijah even though he missed it big time (i.e., didn't fulfill God's purpose for his life)?

25. Discussion question: In what ways, if any, do you think your experience in human relationships has influenced the way you relate to God?

26. Even if you don't do everything God calls you to do, His grace will what?
- A. Leave and never come back
 - B. Ignore you but stay around
 - C. Still abound toward you
 - D. All of the above
 - E. None of the above

SCRIPTURES • 12.2

1 KINGS 17:1

And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, 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.

1 KINGS 18:17-46

And it came to pass, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said unto him, Art thou he that troubleth Israel? [18] And he answered, I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father's house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the LORD, and thou hast followed Baalim. [19] Now therefore send, and gather to me all Israel unto mount Carmel, and the prophets of Baal four hundred and fifty, and the prophets of the groves four hundred, which eat at Jezebel's table. [20] So Ahab sent unto all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together unto mount Carmel. [21] And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word. [22] Then said Elijah unto the people, I, even I only, remain a prophet of the LORD; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men. [23] Let them therefore give us two bullocks; and let them choose one bullock for themselves, and cut it in pieces, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under: and I will dress the other bullock, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under: [24] And call ye on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD: and the God that answereth by fire, let him be God. And all the people answered and said, It is well spoken. [25] And Elijah said unto the prophets of Baal, Choose you one bullock for yourselves, and dress it first; for ye are many; and call on the name of your gods, but put no fire under. [26] And they took the bullock which was given them, and they dressed it, and called on the name of Baal from morning even until noon, saying, O Baal, hear us. But there was no voice, nor any that answered. And they leaped upon the altar which was made. [27] And it came to pass at noon, that Elijah mocked them, and said, Cry aloud: for he is a god; either he is talking, or he is pursuing, or he is in a journey, or peradventure he sleepeth, and must be awaked. [28] And they cried aloud, and cut themselves after their manner with knives and lancets, till the blood gushed out upon them. [29] And it came to pass, when midday was past, and they prophesied until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that there was neither voice, nor any to answer, nor any that regarded. [30] And Elijah said unto all the people, Come near unto me. And all the people came near unto him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD that was broken down. [31] And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, unto whom the word of the LORD came, saying, Israel shall be thy name: [32] And with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD: and he made a trench about the altar, as great as would contain two measures of seed. [33] And he put the wood in order, and cut the bullock in pieces, and laid him on the wood, and said, Fill four barrels with water, and pour it on the burnt

sacrifice, and on the wood. [34] And he said, Do it the second time. And they did it the second time. And he said, Do it the third time. And they did it the third time. [35] And the water ran round about the altar; and he filled the trench also with water. [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 of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word. [37] Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the LORD God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again. [38] Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. [39] And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, he is the God; the LORD, he is the God. [40] And Elijah said unto them, Take the prophets of Baal; let not one of them escape. And they took them: and Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon, and slew them there. [41] And Elijah said unto Ahab, Get thee up, eat and drink; for there is a sound of abundance of rain. [42] So Ahab went up to eat and to drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; and he cast himself down upon the earth, and put his face between his knees, [43] And said to his servant, Go up now, look toward the sea. And he went up, and looked, and said, There is nothing. And he said, Go again seven times. [44] And it came to pass at the seventh time, that he said, Behold, there ariseth a little cloud out of the sea, like a man's hand. And he said, Go up, say unto Ahab, Prepare thy chariot, and get thee down, that the rain stop thee not. [45] And it came to pass in the mean while, that the heaven was black with clouds and wind, and there was a great rain. And Ahab rode, and went to Jezreel. [46] And the hand of the LORD was on Elijah; and he girded up his loins, and ran before Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.

1 KINGS 19:2-4

Then Jezebel sent a messenger unto Elijah, saying, So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I make not thy life as the life of one of them by to morrow about this time. [3] And when he saw that, he arose, and went for his life, and came to Beersheba, which belongeth 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 juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers.

1 KINGS 17:13-23

And Elijah said unto her, Fear not; go and do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son. [14] For thus saith the LORD God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the LORD sendeth rain upon the earth. [15] And she went and did according to the saying of Elijah: and she, and he, and her house, did eat many days. [16] And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by Elijah. [17] And it came to pass after these things, that the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, fell sick; and his sickness was so sore, that there was no breath left in him. [18] And she said unto Elijah, What have I to do with thee, O thou man of God? art thou come unto me to call my sin to remembrance, and to slay my son? [19] And he said unto her, Give me thy son. And he took him out of her bosom, and carried him up into a loft, where he abode, and laid him upon his own bed. [20] And he cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, hast thou also brought evil upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by slaying her son? [21] And he stretched himself upon the child three times, and cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, I pray thee, let this child's soul come into him again. [22] And the Lord heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came into him again, and he revived. [23] And Elijah took the child, and brought him down out of the chamber into the house, and delivered him unto his mother: and Elijah said, See, thy son liveth.

PROVERBS 16:18

Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall

1 KINGS 19:9-13

And he came thither unto a cave, and lodged there; and, behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and he said unto him, What doest thou here, Elijah? [10] And he said, I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts: for the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away. [11] And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the LORD. And, behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks 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] And it was so, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out, and stood in the entering in of the cave. And, behold, there came a voice unto him, and said, What doest thou here, Elijah?

1 KINGS 18:13

Was it not told my lord what I did when Jezebel slew the prophets of the Lord, how I hid an hundred men of the Lord's prophets by fifty in a cave, and fed them with bread and water?

1 KINGS 19:15-16

And the LORD said unto him, Go, return on thy way to the wilderness of Damascus: and when thou comest, anoint Hazael to be king over Syria: [16] And Jehu the son of Nimshi shalt thou anoint to be king over Israel: and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abelmeholah shalt thou anoint to be prophet in thy room.

1 KINGS 19:19-21

So he departed thence, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he with the twelfth: and Elijah passed by him, and cast his mantle upon him. [20] And he left the oxen, and ran after Elijah, and said, Let me, I pray thee, kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow thee. And he said unto him, Go back again: for what have I done to thee? [21] And he returned back from him, and took a yoke of oxen, and slew them, and boiled their flesh with the instruments of the oxen, and gave unto the people, and they did eat. Then he arose, and went after Elijah, and ministered unto him.

2 KINGS 8:13

And Hazael said, But what, is thy servant a dog, that he should do this great thing? And Elisha answered, The LORD hath shewed me that thou shalt be king over Syria.

2 KINGS 9:1-6

And Elisha the prophet called one of the children of the prophets, and said unto him, Gird up thy loins, and take this box of oil in thine hand, and go to Ramothgilead: [2] And when thou comest thither, look out there Jehu the son of Jehoshaphat the son of Nimshi, and go in, and make him arise up from among his brethren, and carry him to an inner chamber; [3] Then take the box of oil, and pour it on his head, and say, Thus saith the LORD, I have anointed thee king over Israel. Then open the door, and flee, and tarry not. [4] So the young man, even the young man the prophet, went to Ramothgilead. [5] And when he came, behold, the captains of the host were sitting; and he said, I have an errand to thee, O captain. And Jehu said, Unto which of all us? And he said, To thee, O captain. [6] And he arose, and went into the house; and he poured the oil on his head, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I have anointed thee king over the people of the LORD, even over Israel.

2 KINGS 2:11

And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.

GENESIS 5:24

And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.

ROMANS 5:20

Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound.