

Sunday, August 9, 2026 – Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 19: 9-18

What have been the great high points in your life? What have been your lowest points?

Have you had a great high point that was immediately or very soon after followed by a very low point?

9 - (Elijah) came to a cave and spent the night there. Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "What are you doing here?"

10 - He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." (also verse 14)

What did God do for Elijah to help him during his very low point?

1. He gave him much needed rest and physical renewal.

5 - Then he lay down under a broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, "Get up and eat."

7-8 - "Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you." He got up and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God.

2. He corrected his perspective.

18 - "Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

3. He gave him a very important role to fulfill.

15-16 - "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel."

4. He gave him a friend – a companion – a successor.

16 - "And you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place."

5. He gave him an opportunity to hear the voice of God.

13 - When Elijah heard (the sound of sheer silence), he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him.

Psalm 85: 8-13

8 - Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people.
When and how has God spoken peace to you?

Mark 4: 39 – He woke up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Be muzzled!"

9 - Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him.

When has God's salvation been most at hand for you?

Romans 10: 5-15

13 - Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Matthew 14: 22-33

22 - Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds.

The disciples experienced a major storm not when they were living outside of the will of God, but instead when they were doing exactly what Jesus had said.

Following Jesus is not going to protect us from all the storms.

Re COVID – "We are not all in the same boat, but we are all in the same storm."

23 - After he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray.

It would be a significant study to notice when were the times when Jesus got off by Himself to pray.

If He needed to do that, and He is God, we need to do that even more.

23-24 – When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them.

How could seasoned fishermen get caught in a storm?

25-27 – Early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified . . . They cried out in fear.

But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

When have you been most afraid? Have you ever felt that Jesus should have responded sooner to your needs and/or fears?

How has Jesus calmed your fears and/or given you courage to face your fears?

Courage – not the absence of fear but being able to face your fears.

28-29 - Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus.

When have you gotten out of the boat? When have you stayed in the boat?

30 - When he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!"

It was when Peter took his eyes off the Lord, and instead focused on the waves and those who make waves, that he began to sink.

31 - Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him.

When has Jesus reached out His hand and caught you?

32-33 - When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him.

When and how has Jesus calmed the storms in your life?

What storm do you need Him to calm right now?