

**ULC Sermon Study Resource**  
***Still Standing // Standing to Listen***  
**Pastor Gabe Kasper**  
**November 14th, 2021**

**Prayer:** Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time, and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

**Icebreaker:** What is your most embarrassing memory?

**Reading:** 1 Kings 19:9-18

**Outline:**

- I. Experiencing Isolation v. 9-10
  - a. Despite the miracles displayed and the faithfulness that Elijah has shown to God, he still finds himself in a place of loneliness and isolation
  - b. Elijah finds himself in this place because faithfulness at times only guarantees God's presence, and expectations of what that faithfulness should look like can go unmet  
**Q: *What unmet expectations did Elijah have of God's plan?***
- II. Hearing His Voice v.11- 14
  - a. Elijah stands before God and hears His response not in the wind, the earthquake, or the fire, but rather in the silence of a low whisper
  - b. When we sit with God and lean into the loneliness and isolation that comes with remaining faithful, we hear the only voice that can comfort us through it  
**Q: *What was God's point of being heard in the silence rather than the noise?***
- III. Opening Our Eyes v. 15-18
  - a. Here God opens Elijah's eyes to His plan, and invites him to be a part of the work already in place for the people of Israel
  - b. Elijah became overwhelmed by his loneliness and subsequently was blinded by it. God didn't offer a solution to his problem, but rather a purpose to get through the pain  
**Q: *How did God open Elijah's eyes?***

**Reflection/Application Questions:**

- 1) What are some unmet expectations you're struggling with in your own life?
- 2) How does the disappointment of those unmet expectations challenge your faith?
- 3) In what ways can you slow down and sit with God to hear his words better?
- 4) What can get in the way of hearing God in the silence?
- 5) How can we push past the unknown's of our situations and trust God's behind the scenes work?

**Suggestions for further study:**

- Colossians 1:15-22                      **Q: *What did God do when we were far from Him?***
- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18              **Q: *How can we find peace and joy in situations that lack it?***

**Closing Prayer:**

Lord Jesus, we thank you that you, the very word that spoke creation into being, chose to enter into our world. Help us to remember that you are with us, that you are for us, and that you chose to lay down your life for us. That we might know we were made for communion and relationship with you, our heavenly father. Jesus, teach us to slow down, and spend time listening to you and hearing from you. In the midst of our isolation of unmet expectations may we find our comfort in you. In your holy name, Amen.