

ULC Sermon Study Resource

Standing to Receive

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November 7th, 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 was the last thing you ate?

Reading: 1 Kings 19:1-8

Outline:

- I. Elijah's Opposition (1 Kings 19:1-2)
 - a. Even after God has shown his power through Elijah, Ahab and Jezebel are still in opposition to God as they seek the death of Elijah.
 - b. In the face of opposition, often conquest or capitulation are an effort made to resolve it.
Q: *Where are you experiencing opposition?*
- II. Elijah's Distress (1 Kings 19:3-4)
 - a. Elijah's response to Jezebel's threat to kill him is to run away, and now wants to die.
 - b. Elijah's unmet expectations lead him to despair as even after God prevails over Baal and the false prophets are dead, there is no change in their hearts.
Q: *How do you respond to distress?*
- III. God's Power (1 Kings 19:5-8)
 - a. The Lord commands Elijah to eat and replies to Elijah's distress by telling him to continue on his journey.
 - b. Elijah experiences immense opposition which leads to distress; however, God renews Elijah's strength proving that He is all Elijah needs. His grace is sufficient.
Q: *What is an example where God has supplied you with Grace when you are in despair?*

Reflection/Application Questions:

- 1) How can you find God's strength to persevere in the face of opposition instead of turning to despair?
- 2) What does distress in your life reveal?
- 3) How does God use trials in our lives?
- 4) Where have you experienced unmet expectations, and how did you respond?

Suggestions for further study:

- Romans 8:31-32 **Q: *How does Paul distinguish motives on how to submit in faith***
- 2 Corinthians 12:1-10 **Q: *Why is it important to know we are weak on our own?***
- Galatians 2:20 **Q: *Where are we invited to draw our strength from?***

Closing Prayer:

Gracious God, the promise of your word is that it is Christ who lives within us. It is his strength and power that leads us to faithfully follow after you. So, Lord, as we face despair and distress in life, as we face opposition for our faith, Lord may we take hold of the promise of Christ, the one who is with us and who dwells in us by faith. Lord, we ask that in us you would make your power perfect in the face of our weaknesses. We ask this Lord in Jesus' name. Amen