

WORSHIP PREPARATION NOTES

Rodney Barbour

Sunday August 6, 2017

Topic: I Kings 19:1-18. Timeless: Old Testament Stories for Today—
“And behold, the Lord passed by...”.

Call to Worship Here’s a prayer before the Call to Worship: *Lord, you know me well. You know my fears and my limitations. Like Elijah, sometimes the journey is just too much for me. Lord, when I am afraid and ready to quit, let me feast on the bread of your Word and the water of your Spirit. Visit me with your manifest presence and speak to me with your still small voice. Renew my vision and send me on in this great adventure of faith.*

Leader: Eternal God, Holy Father, our origin, our destiny, depth of our being, breath of our life, as you ever delight in the worship and service of your children, be pleased to pour your Holy Spirit upon us.

People: As your Spirit came upon your prophets of old, grant us your Spirit of truth and understanding, that we may know your ways and walk in them.

Leader: As your Spirit came upon Christ at the Jordan, grant us your Spirit of power and consecration, that we may enter into the ministry and victory of your Son.

People: As your Spirit came upon your church in Jerusalem, grant us your Spirit of grace and love, that our lives may more fully reflect your glory and that the world might believe, to the honor of your name.

Hymn of Praise From James 4: *Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.* When we worship the Lord in humility, he sees us coming and comes to embrace us, bearing gifts of grace---grace upon

grace to meet our every need: salvation when we are lost, wisdom when we are confused, strength when we are weak, healing when we are broken. Then, we are set free to offer our utmost praise and worship!

Glory Be to God on High

Vs1

**All glory be to God on high and thanks to him forever!
Whatever Satan's host may try, God foils their dark endeavor.
He bends his ear to every call and offers peace, goodwill to all,
And calms the troubled spirit.**

Vs2

**O Father, for your lordship true we give you praise and honor!
We worship you, we trust in you, we give you thanks forever.
Your will is perfect, and your might relentlessly confirms the
right;
Your lordship is our blessing.**

Vs3

**Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, creation's author,
Redeemer of your wandering ones, and source of all true
pleasure:
O Lamb of God, O Lord divine, conform our lives to your design,
And on us all have mercy.**

Vs4

**O Holy Spirit, perfect gift, who brings us consolation;
to men and women saved by Christ, assure your inspiration.
Through sickness, need, and bitter death, grant us your warm,
life-giving breath;
Our lives are in your keeping.**

Call to Confession Read I Kings 18. Elijah challenged the people to take a stand—to follow whoever was the true God. Why did so many people waver between the two choices? Perhaps some were not sure. Many knew that the Lord was God, but they enjoyed the sinful pleasures and other benefits that came with following Ahab and his idolatrous worship. If we drift along with whatever is pleasant and easy, we will someday discover we have been worshiping a false god. Our God, the great I AM, is waiting for us, ready to hear our confession of sin, and eagerly waiting to restore unto us the joy of our salvation!

Leader: O God, as Elijah prepared the sacrifice and cried out to you in prayer, so we offer you our confession and our hearts this day.

People: Let your fire fall on us until we are fully consumed. We abhor every false way and renounce everything that is not of you. Put to death every sin that lingers in our lives and every ungodly influence that seeks to raise itself above your name. Let none of it remain--no unholy compromises, no "managed" sins, no hedged bets. And after you have sent the fire, then send the rain of your spirit to quench the parched ground in our souls.

Assurance of Pardon From Psalm 28: 6-7 *Praise be to the Lord, for he has heard my cry for mercy. The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him.*

Leader: Almighty God, we give you praise. You are our shield and our defender. You give us the victory for the sake of your great name.

People: In Christ Jesus, our sins are forgiven! Glory be to God for his grace and mercy to us!

Song: Elijah experienced the depths of fatigue and discouragement just after his two great spiritual victories: the defeat of the prophets of Baal and the answered prayer for rain. Often discouragement sets in after great spiritual experiences, especially those requiring physical effort of producing emotional excitement. To lead him out of depression, God first let Elijah rest and eat. Then God confronted him with the need to return to his mission in life---to be God's prophet. Elijah's battles were not over, there was still work for him to do. If you feel let down after a great spiritual experience, remember that God's purpose for your life is not yet over.

It is enough, O Lord, now take away my life, for I am not better than my fathers! It is enough, it is enough; now take away my life, I am not better, not better than my fathers, I am not better, I am not better than my fathers! I desire to live no longer; now let me die, for my days are but vanity, now let me die, for my days are but vanity! But vanity! I have been very jealous for the Lord, for the Lord God of Hosts! For the children of Israel have broken thy covenant,

broken thy covenant, have broken thy covenant and thrown down thine altars, and slain all thy prophets, slain them with the sword, and slain thy prophets, slain them with the sword. I have been very jealous for the Lord, for the Lord God of Hosts, very jealous for the Lord, the Lord God of Hosts, and I even I only am left; and they seek my life, and they seek my life to take it, to take it away. It is enough! It is enough! It is enough, O Lord! Now take away my life, for I am not better than my fathers; now let me die, Lord take away my life!

Scripture-Sermon: Read I Kings 19:1-18. Elijah knew that the gently whisper was God's voice. He realized that God doesn't reveal himself only in powerful miraculous ways. To look for God only in something big may be to miss him, because he is often found gently whispering in the quietness of a humbled heart. Step back from the noise and activity of your busy life and listen humbly and quietly for his guidance.

Offertory: Today we will hear an historic communion song from the thirteenth century, Thee We Adore. Here's the text: *Thee we adore, O hidden Savior, thee, who at this blessed feast art pleased to be; both flesh and spirit in thy presence fail, yet here thy presence we devoutly hail. Fountain of goodness, Jesus, Lord and God, cleanse us, unclean, with thy most cleansing blood; increase our faith and love, that we may know the hope and peace which from thy presence flow.*

See You in Worship This Sunday