

“When the Sent Get Tired”

What God Does for the Disciple Between the Commission and the Finish Line
Bible Study | Galatians 6:9 · 1 Kings 19:1–8 | August, Week 4 (Fifth Sunday)

THIS WEEK’S TEXTS

OLD TESTAMENT

1 Kings 19:7

The angel of the Lord came back a second time and touched him and said, ‘Get up and eat, for the journey is too great for you.’

NEW TESTAMENT

Galatians 6:9

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

THE GAP — WHERE THIS SERMON MEETS YOU

Last week the door opened. The commission landed. The congregation was sent. And then Monday arrived — and the gap between the commission and the finish line showed up.

The gap is not a sign that you heard wrong. It is the terrain every sent disciple has always walked through. Elijah came off the greatest victory of his prophetic ministry and ended up under a broom tree asking to die. The same man. One chapter later. God’s response was not a rebuke. It was a meal.

WHERE ARE YOU IN THE GAP?

The sermon named three places a sent disciple might be right now:

Those who stepped out last week and stumbled. Those who stepped out and are weary from going. Those who haven’t stepped out yet and have been carrying that all week.

The gap is not the end of the story. It is the middle of it.

1. Be honest about which category you are in right now. Don’t spiritualize the answer — name it plainly. Where are you actually?

Where I honestly am in the gap this week — named without performance:

1

WEARINESS IS NOT WEAKNESS — IT IS THE TERRAIN OF THE SENT

10 min

OLD TESTAMENT

Psalms 22:1–2

*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
Why are you so far from saving me... I cry out
by day, but you do not answer, by night, but I
find no rest.*

NEW TESTAMENT

Galatians 6:9a

Let us not become weary in doing good...

Paul does not say if you become weary. He says let us not — which assumes weariness is the expected terrain of the person doing good in a world not yet fully transformed. Elijah did not burn

out because he was weak. He burned out because he had been completely spent in the service of the assignment. There is a specific exhaustion that only comes from genuinely doing what God asked.

Weariness in the sent life is not evidence of failure. It is evidence of engagement. God's response to Elijah under the tree was not a lecture. It was a meal.

TWO KINDS OF WEARIINESS — ONLY ONE GETS THIS SERMON

The weariness of sin is the exhaustion of running from God or chasing the wrong thing. That weariness has a remedy: repentance, return, course correction.

The weariness of faithfulness is the exhaustion of having been completely poured out in obedience. That weariness has a different remedy: the bread baked over hot coals and the jar of water. God does not treat these the same. Elijah under the tree received provision, not correction. Which kind of weariness are you carrying right now?

1. The sermon drew a distinction between the weariness of sin and the weariness of faithfulness. Which kind is yours right now? How does naming that correctly change what you need from God in this season?

2. Psalm 22:1–2 are the words Jesus cried from the cross — the experience of desolation in the middle of obedience is not a sign of abandonment. It is the oldest terrain in the sent life. Where in your own experience have you felt desolate in the middle of obedience? What did that season teach you?

The specific weariness I am carrying right now — and whether it is the weariness of sin or the weariness of faithfulness:

2

THE ANGEL BRINGS FOOD, NOT A REBUKE — PROVISION BEFORE RESUMING

15 min

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 40:29–31

He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak... those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles.

NEW TESTAMENT

1 Kings 19:5–6

An angel touched him and said, 'Get up and eat.' He looked around, and there by his head was some bread baked over hot coals, and a jar of water.

The angel does not arrive with a motivation speech. He touches Elijah. Get up. Eat. That is the entire intervention. God does not shame the depleted disciple. He feeds them — twice. Isaiah 40:29 says he gives strength to the weary. Not to the disciplined who managed their energy well. To the weary. That is the only qualification.

God does not resume the commission with a depleted disciple. He provisions them first. The meal comes before the next instruction. Receive it before you resist it.

WHAT GOD PROVIDES IN THE GAP — AND WHAT IT ACTUALLY LOOKS LIKE

Bread baked over hot coals and a jar of water. The most specific provision in the Old Testament. Not a vision. Not a new commission. Not an explanation. Food. Water. Sleep.

The provision in the gap is not always dramatic. Sometimes it is a night of genuine rest. A meal with someone who loves you. A conversation that reminds you of why you went. A Scripture that lands

differently than it ever has before. A moment of unexpected peace in the middle of the hard. God's provision in the gap is calibrated to the next leg of the journey — not the whole journey. The angel did not stock Elijah's refrigerator for the month. He gave him what he needed to get up and go.

1. The angel touched Elijah before speaking — physical presence before words. What does that say about what a depleted person needs first? Where have you experienced God's provision in the gap as something physical, tangible, and simple rather than spiritual and complex?
2. The sermon said: you cannot pour from empty, and God, who designed the vessel, knows this better than you do. Where have you been trying to sustain the sent life without receiving the provision God is already offering? What have you been refusing or ignoring?
3. Isaiah 40:31 says those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. The renewal is tied to hope, not to effort. What does it mean to hope in the Lord in a way that produces strength renewal rather than just more striving?

The specific provision God has been offering me in the gap that I have been too busy or too proud to receive:

3

AT THE PROPER TIME — THE HARVEST IS REAL, THE TIMING IS HIS

10 min

OLD TESTAMENT

Habakkuk 2:3

*For the revelation awaits an appointed time...
Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come
and will not delay.*

NEW TESTAMENT

Galatians 6:9b

*...for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we
do not give up.*

Paul's promise is a certainty, not a possibility. At the proper time you will reap. The variable is not whether the harvest comes. The variable is whether you are still in the field when it does. Habakkuk 2:3 anchors the same promise in the Old Testament: the revelation awaits an appointed time. Though it linger, wait for it. It will certainly come. The timing belongs to God. The showing up belongs to you.

The harvest is not in question. The timing is not yours to control. The only question is whether you are still in the field when it comes.

THE FARMER DOESN'T DIG UP THE SEEDS

A farmer who plants in spring does not go back in April and dig up the seeds to check whether they are growing. The digging would undo the planting. The harvest requires a season between planting and reaping, and the farmer's job during that season is not to manufacture the growth. It is to keep showing up. To water. To tend. To not abandon the field because the ground looks the same as it did the day after planting.

The sent disciple who prayed for their neighbor and saw nothing change has not failed. They have planted. The harvest is on God's calendar, not theirs. Elijah arose and ate and went — forty days on the strength of one meal. The provision was calibrated to the distance. So is yours.

1. The only condition attached to the harvest promise is 'if we do not give up' — not if we perform well enough, not if we have enough faith. What has been tempting you to give up on a specific field you have been sent to? What would staying look like?
2. Habakkuk 2:3 says the revelation awaits an appointed time — though it linger. Where in your sent life have you been experiencing the lingering? What has that season been doing in you that could not have happened any other way?

3. Elijah went forty days on the strength of one meal. The provision was not excessive — it was sufficient for the next leg. Where has God given you just enough — not everything you wanted, but exactly what you needed to take the next step?

The field I am most tempted to abandon right now — and what staying would require of me this week:

THE CLOSE — GET UP AND EAT

The altar call named three categories of sent disciples and prayed specifically over each. Before the commitment — identify which one you are and receive the word that belongs to you.

●	Stepped out and stumbled	God is not finished with what he started. The stumble is not the story. The commission is still standing. What is your next step?
●	Stepped out and weary	The bread is already baked and the water is already there. You are not being asked to manufacture more fuel. You are being asked to receive what he has already provided. What do you need to receive?
●	Haven't stepped out yet	The door is still open. The commission is still standing. The gap between last Sunday and this Sunday has not cancelled the sending. What is keeping the door bolted — and what would it take to unlock it?

Get up. Eat. The journey is great. But he has already provided for every mile of it.

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. — Galatians 6:9

SCRIPTURES FOR THIS STUDY

Galatians 6:9 | 1 Kings 19:1–8 | Isaiah 40:29–31 | Psalm 22:1–2 | Habakkuk 2:3

NEXT WEEK: ‘Keep Growing’ | Philippians 3:12–14 | The Series Finale. Press on.