Riverside Community Church

Influencer
Elijah
Pastor Derrick Sanderson
November 8, 2026

**1 Kings 18:36-39 (NLT)** - At the usual time for offering the evening sacrifice, Elijah the prophet walked up to the altar and prayed, "O Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,[a] prove today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant. Prove that I have done all this at your command. **37** O Lord, answer me! Answer me so these people will know that you, O Lord, are God and that you have brought them back to yourself."

**38** Immediately the fire of the Lord flashed down from heaven and burned up the young bull, the wood, the stones, and the dust. It even licked up all the water in the trench! **39** And when all the people saw it, they fell face down on the ground and cried out, "The Lord—he is God! Yes, the Lord is God!"

**1 Kings 19:1-18 (NLT) -** When Ahab got home, he told Jezebel everything Elijah had done, including the way he had killed all the prophets of Baal. **2** So Jezebel sent this message to Elijah: "May the gods strike me and even kill me if by this time tomorrow I have not killed you just as you killed them."

**3** Elijah was afraid and fled for his life. He went to Beersheba, a town in Judah, and he left his servant there. **4** Then he went on alone into the wilderness, traveling all day. He sat down under a solitary broom tree and prayed that he might die. "I have had enough, Lord," he said. "Take my life, for I am no better than my ancestors who have already died."

**5** Then he lay down and slept under the broom tree. But as he was sleeping, an angel touched him and told him, "Get up and eat!" **6** He looked around and there beside his head was some bread baked on hot stones and a jar of water! So he ate and drank and lay down again.

**7** Then the angel of the Lord came again and touched him and said, "Get up and eat some more, or the journey ahead will be too much for you."

**8** So he got up and ate and drank, and the food gave him enough strength to travel forty days and forty nights to Mount Sinai, the mountain of God. **9** There he came to a cave, where he spent the night.

But the Lord said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

**10** Elijah replied, "I have zealously served the Lord God Almighty. But the people of Israel have broken their covenant with you, torn down your altars, and killed every one of your prophets. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me, too."

**11** "Go out and stand before me on the mountain," the Lord told him. And as Elijah stood there, the Lord passed by, and a mighty windstorm hit the mountain. It was such a terrible blast that the rocks were torn loose, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. **12** And after the earthquake there was a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there was the sound of a gentle whisper. **13** When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

And a voice said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

**14** He replied again, "I have zealously served the Lord God Almighty. But the people of Israel have broken their covenant with you, torn down your altars, and killed every one of your prophets. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me, too."

**15** Then the Lord told him, "Go back the same way you came, and travel to the wilderness of Damascus. When you arrive there, anoint Hazael to be king of Aram. **16** Then anoint Jehu grandson of Nimshi to be king of Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from the town of Abel-meholah to replace you as my prophet. **17** Anyone who escapes from Hazael will be killed by Jehu, and those who escape Jehu will be killed by Elisha! **18** Yet I will preserve 7,000 others in Israel who have never bowed down to Baal or kissed him!"

**God never asks us to do it alone, because we are never alone.**

**Study Guide:**

Last Sunday we spoke about how God never asks us to do it alone, because we are never alone. When you look back through your life, when were moments that you felt totally alone? How did that feel at the time? How did things change when you no longer felt alone?

The authors of the Bible spend a lot of time talking about how God will always be with us. Take a moment to read Joshua 1:1-9. What stands out to you about this scripture? What do you think this moment meant to Joshua? How important do you think this moment was for Joshua as he led Israel?

Joshua stood at the edge of what he knew, and in that moment, God didn't tell him exactly what was going to happen. He didn't tell him exactly what the issues were going to be, what the solutions to those issues was going to be, or even what the timeline was. In this pivotal moment Joshua didn't actually need to know all that if he knew that God was going to be there all along the way and, because he knew God was going to be there with him, Joshua was able to step into the unknown with confidence and courage.

What spaces in your life right now have you been tricked into feeling you are all alone? What corners of your life could you use a reminder that God is with you? Take some time to share that with others and then pray for each other. A great way to remind us that we are not alone is by bringing others into our life and allowing them to be carriers of God's presence and care.