

Gaffling for the Glory (When expectations and experience pushes you to go rogue.)

There's a lot we should do...

A lot we could do...

A lot we want to do...

A lot we can do...

But only one thing we NEED to do...

And that's what God ask us to do.

God's patience — with us — is often misunderstood as His permission — for us.

If we're not careful, before we realize or recognize it, we can drift farther and farther away from God's presence and purpose, by mistaking His patience with us for His permission to us.

We're going to look at how even the greatest of servants are prone to drifting.

When Elijah saw it... (1 Kings 19:3) he couldn't quit seeing it! It captured his mind and manipulated his heart. How did it happen so fast? God was at work exposing the heart of a drifter.

Elijah didn't go from the fires of Carmel to fretting and the fears that captivated his focus overnight — he had already started drifting before the mountain top experience. The valley of despair just revealed the folly of his misaligned vision. His attention had drifted from the Lord and now he's in a tailspin. A misplaced focus will make a show. And our missteps will be manifested in the folly of our fretting over what others are saying they can and will do because we have already shifted our focus off of what God had asked us to do.

The evening before he ran the fastest marathon ever recorded... he out ran, even after starting late, Ahab and his chariot. A 31 mile run in world record time... because the Spirit of the Lord was upon him. Chariots can get up to 40mph. Let's be conservative and cut it in half. The fastest ever marathon was run at an average speed of 13mph. The fastest recorded speed in a short distance was 27mph. But to average 20-30mph for 31 miles is supernatural. And now he's running for his life because a threat has taken control of his life.

Hijacked with lies...

Elijah, Pride and Jezebel

I have found that each of us, for whatever reason, have misunderstood and consequently

misappropriated and misapplied big and little circumstances that have entered and exited our lives. For none of us are immune from this infection and there's no onetime vaccine for misunderstanding and misusing truth, trials, temptations and test in our lives. Elijah is a case in point. Take note of his dilemma with a snorting queen (1 Kings 18 – 19). Sometimes we function in futility — all because we failed to see God at work and people, things and circumstances hijack our focus. We then live with the misfortunes of only seeing life through a tainted and dirty lens. I had a little helper... I pray this word and encouragement helps put a little rebar in your resolve.

A hijacked heart... when our focus is consumed with lies or threats or fears or empty and lifeless things that have misdirected and misguided our trust and trustworthiness.

We drift, like leaves upon the water, toward our focus. We're all carried away by our thoughts, even, when we're doing everything to run away from the thing that has hijacked our attention.

The thing we celebrate or fear... are the realities of what we see. He moped around and isolated himself. Then it took him 40 days and 40 nights for a 4 day journey. Pity, when cultivated, creates a pitiful performance no matter how we hash it out. Elijah was out of the nest and he's drying up by the day.

Every word of Satan, and those used by him (like Jezebel), should come with a bright and bold disclaimer that says; "But... I don't have the final say!"

When the enemy told Eve... "You shall not surely die!" He failed to give Eve the disclaimer, "But... I don't have the final word on this thing or anything else in this world or the world to come."

When he attempted to provoke Jesus... by "promising Him all the kingdoms of the world, if He would only bow down and worship him. He gave Jesus no disclaimer...

And when he insisted, through Peter, that Jesus have a pity party and that He didn't have to do anything He didn't want to... because He didn't deserve to go through the pain and heartache, he didn't give Him any disclaimer of, "But... I don't have the final say!"

And, likewise, a world that is overly confident that they know better than Jesus, always fails to give a disclaimer that they too do not have the last word.

Jezebel didn't have the last word... and with no disclaimer in sight, Elijah let her hijack his focus and manipulate his attention and attitude (1Kings19). Why? Partly, because he had gotten a tad bit caught up with himself and God was using this wicked woman to humble him. Remember when

Elijah reminded the people, on Mt. Carmel (18:22) and God at Mt. Horeb (19:10,14) that He was the "lone ranger" prophet. God used Jezebel to remind Elijah that the only things that separated him and Jezebel was His presence, His favor and His final word over his life. And He wanted Elijah to know that he wasn't the only one left that had been touched by His redeeming and refocusing grace (19:18).

There're many lessons we glean and take home from the context and circumstances of Elijah's life. But one of the the most essential is the fact that we can either rest our hope and joy upon Jesus and His kingdom purpose for our lives or allow those, including ourselves, who DO NOT have the final word over us, hijack our joy and create an unsettled spirit in us.

Think about it? Who do you believe has the final word? Your answer will reveal a lot about you and what you believe. I believe Jesus will have the final word and He doesn't have to give a disclaimer, because He is and will be the final authority over all.

What has the focus of your mind, your heart and your joy today?

#nestingwithjesus #1kings #1kings18 #1kings19 #fools #pride #foolscanhelpthemselves
#dontbeafool #ahab #fessupwiseupgrowup #everdaylifewithpastornick #alldayeverydaywithJesus
#seeingtheextraordinaryintheordinary #preachingtomyself #elijah #effectiveleadership
#mark8and34thru38 #nodisclaimerneeded

We must give Him our undivided attention and affection (Hebrews 2).

"Guard your heart, for out of the heart proceeds all the issues of life" (Proverbs 4:23).

The flow of our thought life will dictate our lives.

Who will we listen to and trust? Him or them?