

Intro

~ We read about running, looking and considering Christ in Heb 12:1-4. The writer in verse 3 tells us Christ endured sinner hostility and satanic hostility. This is our example. If we fail to look at and consider Christ we'll get weary and faint

~ Elijah's miracles

1 Kings 17:1 The rain ceases at his word

1 Kings 17:2-4 Elijah is fed by the ravens

1 Kings 17:14 The widows flour and olive oil never ran out during the drought caused by Elijah's word

1 Kings 17:17-24 Elijah raised the widows son from the dead

1 Kings 18:38 Elijah called down fire down from heaven to consume the offering

1 Kings 18:45 Elijah called rain down ending the drought

1 Kings 18:46 The Lord gave Elijah special strength and he outran Ahab's chariot all the way to Jezreel

2 Kings 2:11-14 Elijah is taken to heaven in a chariot of fire drawn by horses

2 Kings 2:9-10 Elisha is granted a double portion of Elijah's ministry

~ For all of these miracles that were part of Elijah's ministry he still became weary and faint

~ Many of God's servants have struggled with weariness and fainting – Spurgeon, Robert Murray McChesney, Paul lost hope and thought he would die (2 Cor 1) and our good friend here Elijah

~ We may share in Elijah's struggles of weariness and fainting

Outline

Causes of Elijah Being Weary and Faint

1 Comparison & improper expectations (v1-4)

2 Neglecting his basic needs (v5-8)

3 Lack of purpose (v9)

4 The "I Only" complex (v10-14)

5 Neglecting the "still small voice of God" (v11-13)

The Lord's Answer to Elijah (Vv15-18)

1 Something for Elijah to do for God (v15,16)

2 Others will be used by God (v17)

3 Others are being used by God (v18)

Text

Elijah goes from faithful and fearless (1 Kings 17,18) to faithless and fearful (1 Kings 19)

V1-4 = Comparison & Improper Expectations

~ Discouragement and Disappointment with his calling and ministry because of comparison

~ One of the reasons for discouragement and disappointment is improper expectations

~ This is one of the reasons for Elijah's sudden discouragement. Perhaps he expected Ahab and Jezebel to repent

~ What were his expectations of the people present in the previous chapter when he called fire down

~ We can all appreciate Elijah's desire to see all Israel turn to the Lord just as we would in our day but we must

remember that not everyone's going to turn to the Lord. And when everyone doesn't turn to the Lord we must not get discouraged because our expectations are not fulfilled. The Lord honors faithful obedience

~ Comparison is another cause of weariness and fainting

V5-8 = Neglecting his basic necessities of food, water and rest

~ Physical Exhaustion is another cause of discouragement, weariness and fainting

V9 = Lack of purpose

~ The Lord asked Elijah what he was doing there

~ When we're weary and faint we may do the wrong things and go to the wrong places

~ Elijah never consulted the Lord on his situation he just ran from it

~ When we're purposeless we run from the challenges the Lord allows in our lives

-V10,14 = The "I Only" complex

~ There's a repeated phrase that clues us into Elijah's mindset (1 Kings 18:22; 19:10,14) "I, even I only"

- 18:22 - the "I only" complex is used referring to Elijah thinking he's the only one serving
- 19:10,14 – the "I Only" complex is used referring to Elijah thinking he's the only one whose served well enough to be hunted for his life
- With all the miracles Elijah was a part of you wonder if he got a little big for his britches
- Perhaps he expected a miracle at every turn. While he saw it on Mt Carmel it wasn't enough for him

~ The Lord had other prophets and others who were used by God. Obadiah was being used by God to hide 100 of the Lord's prophets and was feeding them from Ahab and Jezebel's table

~ Yet, Elijah forgot or didn't hear what Obadiah had said because he thought no one was being used by God the way he was

~ Not everyone has the same kind of ministry. Obadiah had a ministry to the underground church. If Obadiah has the same kind of outward brashness as Elijah Obadiah wouldn't have been able to save those 100 prophets

V11-13 = Forgot the still small voice of God

- He forgot the voice of God in everyday little acts of obedience
- We expect fireworks every time we obey
- We expect to be appreciated when we do something for the Lord
- Elijah became a miracle worker who expected a lot
- If you think about it Elijah saw great power in his ministry and word but it seems like when Jezebel and Ahab didn't repent he lost confidence

V15-18 The Lord's answer

~ V15,16 = God has something for you to do

- One mistake we make in discouragement is stop doing the right and biblical things
- Keep doing the will of God

~ V17 = Others will be used by God

~ V18 = Others are being used by God

Scriptures on fainting and weariness

~ Ps 27:13 I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.

~ Is 40:28-31

~ Lk 18:1 Men ought always to pray and not to faint

~ 2 Cor 4:1 Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not

~ 2 Cor 4:15,16 For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God. 16 For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.

~ Gal 6:9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

~ 2 Thess 3:13 But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing.

~ Heb 6:10 For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

~ Heb 12:5 And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:

Conclusion

~ The Hebrews Christians we're starting to take their eyes off of Christ in their persecution. Because they took eyes off Christ they were on the verge of becoming faint and weary

~ Suffering, testing, adversity and testing has a way of making us weary physically and faint mentally

~ In the context of Hebrews 12 we RUN to Christ, LOOK to Christ and CONSIDER Christ or we'll get weary and faint

~ Remember Peter walked on water until he took his eyes off of Christ

~ Macros Witt – Motivo de my cancion. Christ is our motivation

~ How often do we pause and express our sincerest thanks, worship and adoration to Christ?