

Pastor Jason's notes for 5/29-30/2010

@ The Crossroads of Life

"And the word of the LORD came to him: "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He replied, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, broken down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too." The LORD said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by." Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave. Then a voice said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

I Kings 19:9b-13

"Does not wisdom call? Does not understanding raise her voice? on the heights beside the way, at the crossroads she takes her stand."

Proverbs 8:1-2 (ESV)

"This is what the LORD says: "Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls ..."

Jeremiah 6:16

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"@ The Crossroads of Life"

The wisdom of the crossroads is that wisdom is at the crossroads.

1. Ask for it
2. Walk in it
3. Rest in it

If you've been responsible, then you're not responsible:

1. for the results
2. for what people think

God wants you to hear His silent voice, and see His invisible qualities. When we're at the crossroads, God...

1. smashes our false images of Him
2. Asks what we're doing here
3. Moves us from faith to trust

Before you cross that road, consider the road of the cross.

1. Jesus knows the crossroads
2. Jesus knows the surrender
3. Jesus knows the way

next weekend: "The Unstoppable Life" w/Pastor David



CONNECTION QUESTIONS

for personal study & individual reflection,
and small group discussion & comment

“@ The Crossroads of Life” - 1 Kings 19:9b-13; Proverbs 8:1-2;
James 1:5; Jeremiah 6:16; Psalm 34:8a; Proverbs 3:5; Matthew 11:28

1. Life, much like a roller coaster, has its ups and downs, twists and turns. If you were to “assign a ride” to each of the following areas--SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL, FINANCIAL, PHYSICAL, SPIRITUAL, MENTAL--what would they be and why? (For example: Mental: Space Mountain; Social: The Jungle Cruise; Financial: It’s a Small World; etc.)

2. The Prophet Elijah experienced great moments of the miraculous with God that are simply beyond our experiential arsenal. Yet, according to James 5:17, Elijah, “was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years.” Many times we think that if we just experienced miracles we would be able to follow the Lord with greater confidence and trust. Reading through 1 Kings chapters 18 and 19 we see that Elijah faced several major crossroads of faith. He confronted King Ahab, the Israelites, and false prophets, trusting in God to deliver him. Yet, even after witnessing great miracles he panicked at the crossroads of confronting Jezebel. Why? What changed in him that made this incredible man of God flee for his life?

3. When our expectations come crashing down we become susceptible to depression. Elijah became disappointed after all his work for God resulted in death threats from

Jezebel. Read 1 Kings 19:3-9. Do you see how Elijah is showing signs of burnout and depression? Can you see how he depreciates his worth, underrates his contribution, exaggerates his problems, and loses vision? When you deal with disappointment in life, how do you exhibit your frustration and hurt?

4. Again, keeping in mind 1 Kings 19:3-9, in what ways does God help Elijah? Does anything surprise you (such as how the Lord never became angry with him)? In what ways has the Lord helped you when you’re a bit disillusioned with the world and feeling underappreciated?

5. According to Proverbs 3:5, God desires you to “Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.” What area in your life is God asking you to trust him with? What obstacles are hindering you from relinquishing your ways over to what God is asking you to do? Why do you think you’re not willing to trust Him when it comes to those areas of your life?

6. God promises us that He will give wisdom to anyone who asks without finding fault (James 1:5). Why do you think God gives wisdom to anyone... ANYONE... who asks Him for it? How do you think this wisdom arrives? Miraculously? During a sermon? After fasting and praying? Who and what are your trusted sources when it comes to asking for advice?
