

Christ Church sermon questions 12 January 2020

Elijah

As with many other biblical characters we have looked at and are yet to look at in this series, Elijah was instructed by God to do something that would put him in danger. He bravely stands before the ruthless and powerful Ahab and Jezebel and speaks out against the idol worship in their kingdom. With 105 biblical entries on Elijah I wanted to draw out the significance of Elijah's part which spans God's story. God's story is one of him continually wanting to forgive, reconnect and be in relationship with his people AND we are invited to take part in that story. *Chris Chalmers*

1. With this idea of 'connecting' in mind take a moment to consider what times and/or places help you connect with God and visualise being there now.
2. *Read 1 Kings 18:1-2* Scholars describe Elijah as a 'king breaker' because he is prepared to put himself in front of them without armies or even friends with him for support. Have you ever 'stood up' for a righteous principle: a playground bully, a colleague or a manager in the work place that was being unreasonable to you or with someone else?
3. *Read 1 Kings 18:7-16* As he reveres the Lord, Obadiah has taken risks secretly hiding and serving the Lord's prophets from Ahab and Jezebel's assassins. Yet when Elijah asks him to tell King Ahab that Elijah has come to speak with him, why does Obadiah get anxious?
4. If you have been asked to 'stand up' for something did you become anxious and think about possible consequences that may have happened to you? Do you think that was wrong?
5. *Read 1 Kings 19:1-4, 11-16* How does Elijah feel about the offering burning and then his running away? What does God do to make him realise that he is only a man and that God still has things for him to do in God's plan?
6. In the New Testament Peter, James and John see Jesus standing talking to Elijah and Moses. Why do you think Jesus doesn't engage with his disciples about who he spoke with? Is the 'who's who' of the kingdom important beyond Father, Son and Spirit?
7. Pray for protection for those who stand up against injustice and evil, not just the ones who are seen doing it but for the many who may never be known as an injustice breaker or a righteous fighter. And pray that all of us in God's story will play our part however scary, big or small that part may appear.