

LIFE APP EXILED FOR PERSPECTIVE

May 2-3, 2020

1 Kings 19:9 NLT There he came to a cave, where he spent the night. But the Lord said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

LIFE GROUP / PERSONAL STUDY:

As we finally see the world beginning to open up again and we’re tentatively thinking about coming out of this isolation because of COVID-19, we may be still asking many questions. We may be wondering what has God’s Purpose been for this time of “Exile?” We must always remember that God is In Control. That He is always working On Purpose, With Purpose, and For Purpose. So we need to realize that God may be using this time of Isolation to get our attention and to change our “Perspective” possibly about a number of things. The example we can look at is a situation in Elijah’s life following one of his greatest miracles and victories, but at this time he believed the lie of the enemy instead of believing in the Promise of God.

Read 1 Kings 19:1-9:

1A) This event took place following the mountaintop experience where God had given unmistakable proof that He is God. Describe the situation Elijah found himself in at this time. Look for the lie that he believed, where he went, and what his attitude was.

1B) PERSONAL: Why do you think Elijah was so vulnerable at this particular point of his life? Compare this to anything that you may have experienced that is similar.

2A) PERSONAL: Considering that we know Elijah was a man of great potential, how do you think this experience in Elijah’s life illustrates the principle of John 10:10?

2B) PERSONAL: Knowing that God is Sovereign - that He knows the secrets, the thoughts, the fears that we have, how would you prayerfully and honestly answer the Question, “Where are **you** - in relationship to God, to your family, to your church, to your work, etc.?”

3A) PERSONAL: God asked Elijah, “What are you doing here?” When you’re troubled, fearful, worried, etc. what do you normally do? Do you run and seek isolation or do you prefer to reach out to be with others? How have your actions affected your perception?

3B) PERSONAL: What is your perception and perspective after all these weeks of social distancing?

4A) What does Romans 14:7 tell us?

4B) Describe the strategies the devil tries to use against all of us.

5) PERSONAL: Because of the fears and frustrations of this pandemic, we’re possibly all feeling like our gages are empty. What are you doing to take care of yourself - to Replenish yourself?

Read 1 Kings 19:10-18:

6A) Describe how Elijah was feeling and why.

6B) How did God answer and what was His answer for Elijah’s problem?

7A) PERSONAL: How loud was your life before COVID-19?

7B) PERSONAL: How do the following verses encourage you to listen for God’s answer to changing your perspective?

1 Samuel 3:9:

Psalms 85:8:

Revelation 2:7,11,17, 29:

ACT: God uses whatever He needs to get our attention! It’s very possible that before this pandemic, that our lives were so loud with so many activities, that we weren’t hearing God at all. So as we begin to come out of this “cave” let’s be certain that we come out differently. Let’s be intentional about using our ears to not only hear what God is saying to us, but to “Listen” to what He is saying and then do what He says. Let’s do everything we can to allow God to change our perspective. Let’s be alert and watch for where the Holy Spirit is leading us and then quickly and willingly follow wherever He leads.

Daily Devotional: It always helps to look at the context of the passage. Then try to answer the following questions about the passage. Who is involved? What is going on? Where is the action taking place? When? How can this concept apply to my life? Why is it important? Also look for Commands, Warnings, and Examples to follow or not to follow.

- Every day this week let's look at passages that describe the importance of listening to God.

Monday:

Mark 4:23-24 NLT

"Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand." Then he added, "Pay close attention to what you hear. The closer you listen, the more understanding you will be given—and you will receive even more."

Tuesday:

Luke 8:18 NLT

"So pay attention to how you hear. To those who listen to my teaching, more understanding will be given. But for those who are not listening, even what they think they understand will be taken away from them."

Wednesday:

John 5:24 NLT

"I tell you the truth, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life. And I assure you that the time is coming, indeed it's here now, when the dead will hear my voice—the voice of the Son of God. And those who listen will live."

Thursday:

John 10:27 NLT

"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me."

Friday:

2 Timothy 4:3-4 NLT

For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear. They will reject the truth and chase after myths.

Saturday:

Hebrews 12:25 NLT

Be careful that you do not refuse to listen to the One who is speaking. For if the people of Israel did not escape when they refused to listen to Moses, the earthly messenger, we will certainly not escape if we reject the One who speaks to us from heaven!

Sunday:

James 1:19-23 NLT

Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. Human anger does not produce the righteousness God desires. So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls. But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror.

