

SOMEONE LIKE ME

Scripture:

James 5:17-18 Amplified

Introduction

The scripture lets us know that the heroes in the word of God are men (and women) just like us. They had the same trials, temptations, disappointments, faults and failures that we have and yet God used them.

I. A look at Elijah

James 5:17-18 NIV 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. Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.

James 5:17-18 Amplified Elijah was a human being with a nature such as we have -- with feelings, affections and constitution as ourselves; and he prayed earnestly for it not to rain, and no rain fell on the earth for three years and six months.

And then he prayed again and the heavens supplied rain and the land produced its crops as usual.

A. Two victories we like to think about

1. Calling fire down from heaven to consume the sacrifice (1 Kings 18)
2. Taken up to heaven in a whirlwind (2 Kings 2)

B. His depression after his victory on Mount Carmel

1. He was physically exhausted
2. He wanted to die
3. He felt totally alone

C. God's treatment for his depression

1. He gave him rest
2. He listened to Elijah's complaints
2. He gave him new purpose
3. He told him where to find help

2 Kings 19:19a, 19c, 21b So he departed thence, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat...and Elijah passed by him, and cast his mantle upon him.

...Then he arose, and went after Elijah, and ministered to him.

II. Principles we learn from Elijah

2 Kings 19:12b-13 NIV ... And after the fire came a gentle whisper. When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and came and stood in the mouth of the cave.

Then a voice said to him, "what are you doing here, Elijah?"

- A. God will speak to you in your time of trouble
- B. You are not alone in your distress
- C. God has new purpose for your life after your recovery

III. Applying the principles to my life

2 Kings 19:15 NIV The Lord said to him, "Go back the way you came, and go to the desert of Damascus...".

- A. Be open with God about your feelings
 - 1. Let him speak to your feelings
 - 2. Realize you may have to go back the way you came
 - 3. YOU may have to relive past hurts in order to heal
- B. Let God reveal the purpose in your present circumstance
- C. Let God reveal the new purpose he has for your life
- D. Listen to his new instructions
- E. Act on the information you have