

Lectionary Bible Study

For Sunday, August 9, 2023 (Pentecost 11)

I Kings 19:9-18

Discussion Starters

1. Why was Elijah hiding in a cave? Given what had just happened (see ch. 18) shouldn't he have been celebrating instead?
2. What was Elijah's complaint? Was it a legitimate one? How does God respond to it?
3. What do you think Elijah needed most at this moment in his life?
4. If God was going to eventually speak in a "still small voice" what was the purpose of earthquake, wind and fire?
5. Elijah twice offers the same answer to God's question. What does Elijah's unchanged answer imply?
6. What message does God eventually give to Elijah?
7. What do you think God is trying to say to you today? How is He trying to communicate that message?

Romans 10:5-15

Discussion Starters

1. On the basis of this passage, how would you respond to a person who says "What you believe doesn't matter, as long as you are sincere"? How is a person saved?
2. How would the attitude of a person coming to God on the basis of his/her performance be different from a person coming in faith?
3. What does it mean to "confess Jesus is Lord"? How does this tie in with "belief"?
4. The early church confession "Jesus is Lord" was offered on contrast to the Roman requirement that its citizens confession "Caesar is Lord." What are other gods that compete for the allegiance of people today?
5. How hard is it for you to accept that "the same Lord is Lord of all" (v. 12)? What about child abusers, terrorists, and other evil people? How is this teaching different from saying that "all roads lead to heaven?"

Matthew 14:22-33

Discussion Starters

1. What made Peter get out of the boat? What made him sink?
2. Why did Jesus want to pray alone? In what way(s) would His popularity with the people be similar to the time He was tempted in the wilderness?
3. Why do you think the disciples did not recognize that it was Jesus walking to them on the water?
4. Do you think God wants believers today to take risks like Peter did? Why or why not? What has been the biggest risk you have ever taken for God?
5. Where might God be inviting you to get out of the boat right now?

WRAP UP

What key insight did you gain from this Bible study? How might it make a difference in how you live today?