

What Are You Doing Here?

23 - Living the Simple Gospel: Philippians
Church on the Park I Trinity Sunday, 12 June 2017

Text: “So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure...But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice and share my joy with you all. You too, I urge you, rejoice in the same way and share your joy with me” (Phil. 1:12-13, 17-18). Also, 1 Kings 19 - Elijah after Mount Carmel.

Theme: After the fire falls be careful that you don't fall into a fatal fatigue.

Intro: Two times the word of the Lord comes to God's servant: “What are you doing here, Elijah?” (1Kings 19:9, 13). The fire had just fallen and a major victory was won over the false prophets. But then, Jezebel retaliates. She's filled with murderous rage, wanting to destroy Elijah. Elijah felt totally poured out—he laboured till he was exhausted in God's cause. The once supernaturally confident prophet was running for his life. Now he wants to die. I want to talk to you about what we can learn from Elijah's retreat and interaction with God. Especially, I want you to see how you can be refilled after you've been poured out like a drink offering.

How can you keep vibrant and rejoicing? The **Vowels of a Vibrant Life: AEIOU**

1) A - ARISE (1 Kings 19:1-5).

- Elijah is absolutely spent. He's totally **fatigued** and **exhausted**. He's running for his life and wants God to put him to **death**.
- He is **running**. He feels the sentence of **death**. He thinks he's a **failure**. He's had **enough**.
- Here we see the **humanity** of Elijah. God only uses **earthen vessels** (2 Cor. 4:7-12). Even Jesus felt he had laboured in vain.
 - God uses **human vessels**, but these human vessels are **weak** and **easily broken**. After you minister, you feel **empty** at times. You have given, but now you need to **receive**. **After true worship**, you are the most **susceptible to temptation** because of your humanity.
- But here is the **important thing**: You can't let your **emotions keep you down**. Don't be **led** by your **feelings**. Instead, be led by **God's voice**.
- What matters to God is how you live **after the fire falls**. *What do you do after the fire falls? After God moves through you in power?*
 - We think it's the **event** that is most important: the conference, the church service and the miracle. These things are important, but the most important thing is your **daily journey**.
- When **Elijah felt** like this, God's message to him was “**ARISE!**”
 - Don't **stay** in this place under a **little broom tree** (a **shrub**). **Rise** above your **emotions**. **Focus** on the **journey** ahead, the **bigger picture**.
- I want to praise God for the **people arising in this church** over the last **twelve months**:
 - Lami - setup, prayer tower and finishing Bible School
 - Pita & Tina - Pita becoming a marriage celebrant and Tina completing Bible School (not an easy feat with five kids).
 - Lini - Lini initiating UNITAS community outreach.

- Joey - Joey initiating Basilea Worship and completing Bible School.
- Tuli - Rising up with a new and influential job in the health and education sector after years of study.
- Phil & Ingrid have constantly encouraged us to arise
- Each one of you I can praise God for arising in different areas.
- My word: **Keep arising!** Especially when you are **knocked down physically** and **emotionally**.

2) E - EAT (1 Kings 19:1-8)

- In order to **stay vibrant**, arise and **EAT**.
- The angel had baked Elijah **fresh, hot bread** and gave him a **jar of water**.
- *What is God calling you to eat?*
 - His **Word**, His **Scripture**
- God spoke to me that he has **many people** in the city of **Brisbane**.
 - I scratched my head at this one because most of the churches I know are **half empty** and **church plants often die**.
 - The Lord then spoke to me that these people are like the **Corinthians**. They are **immature**. Many of them can only drink milk. Some of the are **tired** and **discouraged**. They have **checked out** of the **battle** (1 Cor. 3:1-4).
 - Sadly, they are very **skinny** and **weak, anemic**. They lack **iron**. They lack **strength**. It's because they haven't **eaten**.
 - Guys, it's time to **fight back** and **eat God's Word**.
 - How **powerful** an **army** we would have if we learned to **eat Scripture** everyday!
- The only thing that will make you **stronger** is the **Scripture**. **Eat God's Word**. Don't let it just stay in the **oven** or on the **plate**. Take hold of it. Eat the **fresh, hot** baked bread. **Lami** talked about it in his message - The Baker's Dozen or the Baker's Delight.
- Jeremiah says, "When your words came, **I ate them**; they were my **joy** and **my heart's delight**, for I bear your name, Lord God Almighty" (Jer. 15:16).
- Proverbs says: "Wisdom has built her house, she has hewn out her seven pillars..she calls from the tops of the heights of the city: '**Come, eat of my food** and **drink** of the wine I have mixed. Forsake your folly and live, and proceed in the way of understanding'" (Proverbs 9:1, 3, 5-6, NASB).
- **Eat & Drink** (1 Kings 19:6-7; John 7:37-38)

3) I - INTERACT (1 Kings 19:9-14)

- You can only find true **replenishment** and **rest**, real **vibrancy**, when you **interact** with God.
- **Observe** how **Elijah interacts** with God.
 - He's **real** and **honest**.
 - He **wrestles** with God and tells him his **feelings**.
- This is **not** the **grumbling** and complaining that the God condemns.
 - The grumbling that God condemns is the grumbling to people, rather than seeking God for help.
- Elijah is **pouring** out his **heart** to God.
- The Lord says two times: "*What are you doing here, Elijah?*"
 - At first, we may think that God is saying, "*What are you doing here at Mount Horeb?*"
 - But what God is saying to him is much **deeper**.
 - He's saying, "*What are you doing here on earth?*" In other words, "*What is your purpose?*"
- So I want to ask you the same thing: "*What are you doing here?*"

- *First, why are you here at church?*
- *But more, why are you here on earth?*
- And specifically, *what are you doing here in light of eternity?*
- *What are you doing? Are you drowning in your feelings?*
- It's only when you **intimately interact** with God that you discover your **purpose** and are **renewed**.
- **Next week**, we will cover the rest of the vowels. This week we've covered 'AEI' and next week 'OU'.
- **To be continued...**

Conclusion: How do you live a vibrant life after you have been poured out? Remember these vowels: A, E, I...A - Arise, E - Eat, I - Interact.