**Going deeper in I Kings 19:1-16**

**INTRODUCTION –** In I Kings 18, the Prophet Elijah, through the power of God, has experienced a tremendous victory over King Ahab and the followers of the pagan god, Baal. In addition, God has brought an end to the supernatural drought that had plagued the land.

**READ** – *Read (passage) aloud. Read it several times. Listen for what the Spirit of God is saying, don’t just think about it.*  **19**Now Ahab told Jezebel everything Elijah had done and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. **2**So Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah to say, “May the gods deal with me, be it ever so severely, if by this time tomorrow I do not make your life like that of one of them.”**3**Elijah was afraid and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there **4**while he himself went a day’s journey into the wilderness. He came to a broom tree, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. “I have had enough, Lord,” he said. “Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors.” **5**Then he lay down under the tree and fell asleep. All at once an angel touched him and said, “Get up and eat.” **6**He looked around, and there by his head was some bread baked over hot coals, and a jar of water. He ate and drank and then lay down again.

**7** The angel of the Lord came back a second time and touched him and said, “Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you.” **8**So he got up and ate and drank. Strengthened by that food, he traveled forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God. **9**There he went into a cave and spent the night. And the word of the Lord came to him: “What are you doing here, Elijah?”**10**He replied, “I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too.” **11**The Lord said, “Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.” Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. **12**After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. **13**When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave. Then a voice said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah? **14**He replied, “I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too.”**15**The Lord said to him, “Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael king over Aram. **16**Also, anoint Jehu son of Nimshi king over Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed you as prophet.”

**ENGAGE** – *Questions for going deeper. God is speaking… to you.*

1. Why, after so great of a victory, did Elijah leave his servant behind and fearfully run into the desert and pray to die?

2. What was Elijah’s greatest need as he lay under the Broom tree in the desert? What was God’s response?

3. What was his greatest need on Mt. Horeb? What was God’s response?

4. What was the point of God’s three “false starts” before he speaks in the stillness?

5. Has there been a time when you felt as if there was no way forward? What did you need most in your despair? What do you need most right now?

**PRAY** – *God has spoken. So, reply.*

\*Give thanks that wherever you may be, on the mountain, in a valley or somewhere in between, God is meeting you exactly where you are.

\*If you are in need of help, ask God to help you seek out the people and resources you need.

\*Pray and ask the Lord to help you be the light for someone who is struggling.

**LIVE** – *This is where the rubber hits the road.*

Followers of Jesus are not immune to despair and discouragement. If you are living under the heavy weight of depression, please reach out for help – to our merciful Lord *and* to a friend, family member or someone here at church. Our entire church staff; Pastor Paul, Pastor Jacki, Pastor Shane, and Bonnie, are here for you, always! If you know of someone who may be feeling defeated and is suffering under depression, please reach out to them – a call or sometimes even just a text can make a world of difference.