

WHY AM I THE ONLY ONE WHO SUFFERS LIKE I DO?

By Roy Goodlet

Are you suffering about something in your life and do not understand why you must face this problem? Do you believe that no one else suffers like you do and no one understands what you are going through?

There was a time when I thought I was the only preacher who faced the uphill battle in ministry I had, and I just knew that if I ever left the ministry that God would understand. But then I met other preachers faced the same things I faced. Then God pointed me to the parable of the talents. It told me, "Your successfulness in the ministry is based on one thing. Your faithfulness to God. So, stop acting like a martyr, suck it up, and get back to work!" Today I can sit down with other preachers and say, "I know how you feel, and this is what I did."

Do you remember what happened to Elijah after the great victory God performed on Mount Carmel? God showed His great power when fire came down from heaven and consumed the sacrifice Elijah had set up. Elijah was so pumped that he outran King Ahab's chariot back to town. When he got there, the queen, Jezebel, was so upset that she basically said, "Elijah. You're dead meat." Elijah began to "suffer." He went into a deep depression, and he began to say things like, "Why me God? Why am I the only one who suffers like I do? Why am I the only one who is faithful to You?" God said to him in 1 Kings 19:18, "I want you to know that there were 7,000 people in Israel whose knees did not bow down to Baal nor kiss him. You are not the only one!"

Why did Elijah forget the great victory that just preceded his depression? Well, why did I forget the good days in the ministry when I was griping to God about how tough it was? The truth is that a lot of Elijah's suffering, a lot of mine, and a lot of yours are not necessary. We take our eyes off the mighty power of our God, and we see only what might go wrong.

I remember on those days that I felt I was a suffering preacher that I just wanted to hide in my bedroom. I forced myself to get out and do things with the family, and I enjoyed them after I did. Sometimes the best medicine for suffering is to force some fun into your life, and I mean force, because at first you really won't want to. Take a walk. Watch a funny movie or get out and help someone who needs you.

If you are suffering today and have not accepted Jesus as your Savior, then you have nothing to hold on to in this world except chance. You are suffering alone. You are your only chance of a savior, but up to this point you have not done so well have you? Only Jesus can do it for you!

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