



Repentance Tabernacle Church

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God Sees All!

Sub-Topic: The Inescapable Eye of God!

Scripture: 1 Kings 19:9-21

Jezebel was enraged about the death of her 450 prophets that Elijah slayed at the brook Kishon. Elijah was a constant thorn in Jezebel's side because he was always predicting gloom and doom. Because she could not control his actions, she vowed to kill him. Elijah experienced the depths of fatigue and discouragement just after his two great spiritual victories: the defeat of the prophets of Baal and the answered prayer for rain. To lead Elijah out of depression, God first let him rest and eat. Then God confronted him with the need to return to his mission—to speak God's words in Israel. Elijah's battles were not over; there was still work for him to do.

When Elijah fled to Mt. Horeb, he was returning to the sacred place where God met Moses and gave his laws to mankind. God speaks to Elijah and said, *"What doest thou here"* (1 Kings 19:9, 13). Elijah thought he was the only person left who was still true to God. He had seen both the king's court and the priesthood become corrupt. Lonely and discouraged, he forgot that others had remained faithful in the midst of the nation's wickedness. However, Elijah knew that the still small voice was God's. He realized that God doesn't reveal himself only in powerful, miraculous ways. When God asked Elijah the second time, *"What doest thou here"* (1 Kings 19:9, 13), and his response was for the second time, *"I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts: because the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away"* (1 Kings 19:10, 14). God told Elijah, *"Yet I have left me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him"* (v. 17).

God told Elijah to anoint three different people. The first was Hazael, as king of Syria: and the second was Jehu the son of Nimshi to be king over Israel: and Elisha the son of Shaphat to replace Elijah as prophet. God was going to use Hazael the king of Syria as his instrument to punish Israel for its sin. Syria brought Israel's external punishment. Israel's internal punishment will come from Jehu, and destroy those who worshiped the false god Baal (2 Kings 9—10). The third person was Elisha, the prophet who would succeed Elijah. Elisha's job was to work in Israel, the Northern Kingdom, and help point the people back to God. Whoever, escape the sword of Hazael's shall Jehu slay: and him that escape from Jehu shall Elisha slay (1 Kings 19:17). Elijah put his mantle on Elisha's shoulders to show that he would become Elijah's successor. Later, when the transfer of authority was complete, Elijah left his mantle for Elisha (2 Kings 2:11-14).

Often discouragement sets in after great spiritual experiences, especially those requiring physical effort or producing emotional excitement. When you feel let down after a great spiritual experience, remember that God's purpose for your life is not yet over. When you are tempted to feel you are the only one remaining faithful to a task, don't stop to feel sorry for yourself. Self-pity will dilute the good you are doing. Be assured that even if you don't know who they are, others are faithfully obeying God and fulfilling their duties.

To look for God only in something big (rallies, churches, conferences, highly visible leaders) may be to miss Him, because He is often found gently whispering in the quietness of a humbled heart. Are you listening for God? Step back from the noise and activity of your busy life and listen humbly and quietly for His guidance. It may come when you least expect it.

God sees all, lets us know that we are never closer to defeat than in our moments of greatest victory. We are never as alone as we may feel; God is always there. God speaks more frequently in persistent whispers than in shouts. In life, we all face battles. The landscape of spiritual warfare and real problems has become increasingly unpredictable. Thankfully, our God knows all and sees all. No matter what new tactics the enemy tries, we must trust the Lord. We must honor the Lord with our obedience. Sometimes the enemy's new strategies may require the Lord to answer us in unconventional ways. God's commands may defy our expectations.

Today's church may be beset by challenges similar to those faced by Elijah. However, our faith enables us to triumph. When the people of God that live in today's contemporary society commit themselves to God, they are able to rise to the challenge set before them, the inescapable eye of God sees all.