

St. Paul's Dorking Small Groups. September 2nd

Hidden – Finding God in Silence – Elijah

1 Kings 19

Word: Key points and questions from Sunday's sermon



Where is silence in our lives to day and where was silence in Elijah's ?
Elijah been going and going, standing up for God (see 1 king 18) and at the end was so stressed out he comes close to wanting to give up on life. Having seen God in spectacular action on Mt Carmel Elijah now quakes in the face of Jezebel's threat over his life. He was looking for God to do what he had done before. God wasn't showing up as he expected Him too. However, GOD did meet him and sustained him through the angel with food water and rest then more food water and rest.. When we have been in the midst of spiritual battling we need to take care of the practicalities : food water nad rest.

Elijah heads for Mt Horeb: If ever he was to met with God it would be here . This is where Moses met with God almost face to face, where God came down upon the mountain in a cloud and gave the people of Israel the 10 commandments.,, So clouds, and fire and earthquakes were perhaps what Moses might also have associated with God, And indeed God calls Elijah out from the cave where he is hiding and waiting and .. into he presence of the Lord.. Elijah witnesses the wind, earthquake, fire, and God is not in them.. Then there is this still small voice which in the Hebrew can be translated as God was in the **sound of sheer silence**.. he wasn't in the fire wasn't in the wind or the earthquake.. in the sheer silence.. that's where Elijah found God..

God **called him into his presence**.. his presence was silence..

Why is silence so hard to deal with ?

183 million people are regularly exposed to noise levels labeled by the environmental protection agency (USA) as excessive. How much noise do you make :

Do you listen to songs in your car. Do you have a mobile phone?

Do you have a mobile phone with email Do you have voicemail ?

Do you have a mobile phone with email a pager and a voicemail ?

Do you have a tvs in your house ?

Do you have a radio on all day : in your home ? At work ? In Your car ?

Is there such a thing as visual noise ? Can there be too many pictures around us, so we find it hard to concentrate on listening to others and listening to God ?

Do you feel that God is far away ? Do you wish God's voice to be louder in your life ?

Is there a connection between the amount of noise in our world and our ability to hear him?

Do you want to know stillness and silence? *Read and listen to these words : BE STILL :*

Then Moses and the priests, who are Levites, said to all Israel, Be silent, O Israel, and listen! You have now become the people of the LORD your God. Deuteronomy 27:9

Search your hearts and be silent. Psalm 4 : 4

But the LORD is in his holy temple; let all the earth be silent before him. Habakkuk 2:20

This is what the Sovereign LORD, the Holy One of Israel, says: In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength, Isaiah 30:15

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest: Jesus Matthew 11.

Being still : what was it like ? Was it ok? When are you ever on your own ?

Do you get annoyed if people disturb you ? When does that happen ?

If I am not still and don't know how to listen how do I get my rest ?

Have you spent the same amount of time worrying and talking about your difficult confusing situations as you have spent in silence, listening for what God might say ?

Why is talking so much easier to do than listening ?

Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed. Luke 5 : 16
Jesus discipline : silence
Being on his own - solitude

Last time you were in a solitary place was when?

Why is it easier to surround yourself with noise and keep moving than to stop , be silent and listen for God ?

Do you avoid silence because you are afraid of what God might actually have to say to you ? Does my diary, my time, my life look like that of a person who wants to hear God's voice ?

Is it possible that you have been searching for God in the winds.. the earth quakes and fires.. and he's waiting to speak to you in the silence ?

Borrow and watch the Nooma dvd : 'Noise' by Rob Bell.