

## SUNDAY, AUGUST 9, 2020 – TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

### 1 Kings 19: 9-18 (NRSV)

*What have been the great high points in your life? What have been your lowest points? Have you had a great high point that was immediately or very soon after followed by a very low point?*

<sup>9</sup> (Elijah) came to a cave and spent the night there. Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, “What are you doing here?”

<sup>10</sup> He answered, “I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.” (also verse 14)

#### What did God do for Elijah to help him during his very low point?

1. **He gave him much needed rest and physical renewal.**

<sup>5</sup> Then he lay down under a broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, “Get up and eat.”

<sup>7</sup> “Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you.” <sup>8</sup> He got up and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights.

2. **He corrected his perspective.**

<sup>18</sup> Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.

3. **He gave him a very important role to fulfill.**

<sup>15</sup> Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. <sup>16</sup> Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel.

4. **He gave him a friend – a companion – a successor.**

<sup>16</sup> And you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place.

5. **He gave him an opportunity to hear the voice of God.**

<sup>13</sup> When Elijah heard (the sound of sheer silence), he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him.

### Psalm 85: 8-13 (NRSV)

<sup>8</sup> Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people.

*When and how has God spoken peace to you?*

*Mark 4: 39 – He woke up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, “Be muzzled!”*

<sup>9</sup> Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him.  
*When has God's salvation been at hand for you?*

### **Romans 10: 5-15 (NRSV)**

<sup>13</sup> Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

### **Matthew 14: 22-33 (NRSV)**

<sup>22</sup> Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds.

*The disciples experienced a major storm not when they were living outside of the will of God, but instead when they were fully doing what Jesus said.*

*Following Jesus is not going to protect us from all the storms.*

*Re COVID – “We are not all in the same boat, but we are all in the same storm.”*

<sup>23</sup> After he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray.

*It would be a significant study to notice when were the times when Jesus got off by Himself to pray.*

*If He needed to do that, and He is God, we need to do that even more.*

<sup>24</sup> The boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them.

*How could seasoned fishermen get caught in a storm?*

<sup>26</sup> When the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified . . . And they cried out in fear. <sup>27</sup> But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.”

*When have you been most afraid? How has Jesus calmed your fears and/or given you courage in your fears?*

*Courage – not the absence of fear but being able to face your fears.*

<sup>28</sup> Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” <sup>29</sup> He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus.

*When have you gotten out of the boat? When have you stayed in the boat?*

<sup>30</sup> When he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!”

*It was when Peter took his eyes off the Lord, and instead focused on the waves and those who make waves, that he began to sink.*

*Cf. Roomba. Cf. comment made by young mother in former congregation.*

<sup>31</sup> Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him. *These nine words say it all.*

<sup>32</sup> When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. <sup>33</sup> And those in the boat worshiped him.

*How has Jesus calmed the storms in your life? What storm do you need Him to calm right now?*