

October 13, 2024

“Elija, Ahab, Jezebel, and the Downside of Celebrity!”

FORT COLLINS MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

300 E. Oak Street, Ft. Collins, CO 80524

Worship: 10:00 AM

Pastor: Steve Ramer

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SEASON OF PENTECOST

“Tongues of fire came and rested upon each one of them and they were filled with the Holy Spirit!”

1. GATHERING

Musical Prelude (John)

Call to Worship: #854 (Cathy)

Leader: Some of us are exhausted.

People: We come to rest.

Leader: Some of us are curious about Jesus.

People: We come to learn.

Leader: Some of us are hungry.

People: We come to be fed.

Leader: Some of us are disoriented.

Opening Prayer: #859 (Cathy)

Congregational Singing (Rachel)

Welcome and Passing of the Peace

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also, with you.

All: Let us offer one another signs of peace, reconciliation, and love.

People: We come to pray.

Leader: Some of us are broken.

People: We come to be healed.

Leader: We gather around you today, O Christ.

People: Teach us, feed us, hear us, heal us.

All: Grant us your peace. Amen

“Whatever your beliefs, honor your creator, not by passively waiting for grace to come down from upon high, but by doing what you can to make grace happen... yourself, right now, right down here on Earth.” — Bradley Whitford

2. HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scriptures: 1 Kings 19:1-12

1 So Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done on Mt Carmel which led to the death of all her prophets. 2 Then Jezebel sent a message to Elijah, warning him that she would do the same to him. 3 Terrified, Elijah got up and fled for his life. 4 After a full day's journey into the wild he found a solitary broom tree where, exhausted, he sat down. Hungry, tired and depressed he wished he could die, pleading with God to end his life.

5 But under the shade of that tree he fell asleep. Suddenly, an angel shook him awake saying, "Get up and eat." 6 And there next to his head was a cake warming on hot stones and a jar of water. So, he ate and drank and then fell asleep again.

7 The angel of the Lord came a second time, shaking him awake saying, "Get up Elijah and eat, because the journey ahead of you is long and you will need strength to complete it." 8 So, he got up again, ate and drank and this food sustained him for forty days and forty nights until he reached God's holy mountain. 9 There on the side of that mountain he found a cave to spend the night. There God spoke to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

Sermon: "Elija, Ahab, Jezebel, and the Downside of Celebrity!" (Steve)

God's faithful prophet, Elijah, fresh from a stunning victory over the prophets of the false God Baal, is now running for his life.

His celebrity no doubt has spread far and wide, but it has also led to death threats. He went from riding the waves of Godly success to running to save his skin. From the highest of highs, he finds himself alone, depressed, and feeling sorry for himself. Does this maybe sound familiar? Have you ever felt that way?

10 Elijah answered, "God I have committed my entire life to serving you and I have been doing everything I can to be faithful. But everyone else around me, even the entire nation, has forsaken your laws. They oppress the poor and ignore the weak and now they are attacking the righteous who are trying to help and calling for justice. I'm alone, the only one left who obeys you and I'm just so weary that I don't think I can go on?"

11 Then God replied, "Go out and stand on the mountain and I will come to you." Now there was a great wind, like a hurricane, strong enough to split mountains and break great boulders into pieces. But the Lord God was not in that wind! When the wind had died down an earthquake shook the mountain. But the Lord God was not in that earthquake! 12 After the earthquake settled, a huge forest fire ignited, but as before, the Lord God was not in the fire! But when the fire went out there was nothing, no sound, only sheer silence. 13 And from the silence the voice of the Lord God said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

"The highest hallmark of a civilized society is not the rapidity by which it exacts vengeance, but its ability to hold victim and victimizer in its compassionate heart." — Father Greg Boyle

3. RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD



Congregational Singing (Rachel)

Response

Joys and Concerns

Offering & Music (John)

Sending: #1039

May we go forth into the world with courage and confidence,
And be ready to confront evil without retreating,
Knowing that people — young and old, chosen and called by God —
Will receive power to stand fast against evil,
And to triumph day by day.