

“Set Apart- Holy Habits of Prophets and Kings” 2 “Elijah – Listening” (Feb. 26, Mar.1 & 3)

- ❖ Opening Prayer
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- ❖ Sharing– (A) When did you struggle to hear God’s voice in your past and why? (B) Do you feel ‘normal’ after learning that everyone struggles to hear God at times?
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- ❖ Watch Video “Elijah’s listening to God – Setting Apart”
- ❖ Prophets often took on the battles with God’s people’s hearts and mind which were threatened and endangered by various temptations of worshipping other things and turning away from God. ***What are some idols that we (living in the 21st century) follow that allow us to feed our own desires and appetites?** Prophets often had to tell the truths which were very unpopular to God’s people. In order to speak the truth of God, prophets had to be sure that they were listening to the word of God closely. ****Read Hebrew 4:12.** *“For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.”* *****When have you experienced the word of God speaking directly to your thoughts and attitudes of your heart? ****How did it change you?**
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- ❖ Prophet Elijah was in quiet times apart from the world before and after the big public encounters (1 Kings 18 & 20) of his life. Likewise, God sometimes wants us to come apart with Him and listen to His voice as well as engage the world in community and ministry. ***Describe a time when you have drawn apart from the world to be close to God. What was the setting? **What happened while you were there?**
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- ❖ Elijah’s most difficult time followed a great victory over the Baal prophets and followers. (1 Kings 18) Sometimes we can struggle after a mountaintop experience, feeling let down once the excitement has passed. ***Read 1 Kings 19:3-5.** *“Elijah was afraid and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there, ⁴ while he himself went a day’s journey into the wilderness. He came to a broom bush, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. “I have had enough, LORD,” he said. “Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors.” ⁵ Then he lay down under the bush and fell asleep.* *****What feelings does Elijah express? ****Think of a low point in your life when you struggle with feelings of depression. *****How did you experience God entering into that difficult place with you? *****What gave you hope and encouragement during this time?**
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- ❖ Whether giving or receiving this loving care, we can learn from the example of the prophet Elijah. His wilderness story shows us 4 specific things that helped him head back toward health and wholeness. ***Read 1 Kings 19:5-9,** “All at once an

angel **touch**ed him and **said**, "**Get up and eat.**" ⁶ He looked around, and there by his head was some bread baked over hot coals, and a jar of water. He **ate and drank and then lay down again.** ⁷ The angel of the LORD came back **a second time** and touched him and said, "Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you." ⁸ So he **got up and ate and drank. Strengthened by that food, he traveled** forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God. ⁹ There he went into a cave and spent the night. ****What are some first steps out of the wilderness? ***How can the 4 things help us when we experience feelings of depression?**



❖ Elijah's experience in the cave on Mount Horeb is a beautiful picture of what it is like to listen desperately for God's voice. Elijah entered this place in a state of exhaustion and depression, and he must have been relieved to know that he was about to experience "*the presence of the Lord, for the Lord was about to pass by*" (1 Kings 19:11). It is often in our most desperate times that we are willing to be silent and wait for God's voice. ***Read 1 Kings 19:11-13** ¹¹ The LORD said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by." Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. ¹² After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. **And after the fire came a gentle whisper.** ¹³ When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave. Then **a voice said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"** **** Why is it so difficult to listen for God in the busy daily life? *** Why are we much more likely to hear from God when we take time to be still and silent? **** How can we create a margin of time to listen to God? ***** What are the 4 common ways God speak to us? (Scripture, Spirit, Sense and Saints) *****Is there a particular way God speaks to you more often?**



❖ God has so much to offer us in prayer, but usually we do not take time to receive it. Read John 10:27 and Lamentations 3:26 "²⁷ My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.", "*It is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.*" *** What do these verses say about being silent and listening for God? What does Elijah's story teach us about Listening to God's voice? ** What did you discover about listening this week? ***What did you learn this week about God? And about yourself? ****How does it affect your life to discover that God is always speaking to you and that you only need to learn to listen?**



❖ Share joys & concerns – Closing Prayer