

Disappointment
1 Kings 19:1-8

I. The Occasion for our Current Disappointment

A. The Death of Jason Lashinski

1. We prayed fervently and continuously for Jason's recovery
2. Tuesday we will have his funeral

B. Let's talk about disappointment

1. Definition
 - a. Disappointment is the feeling of dissatisfaction that follows the failure of expectations or hopes to manifest.
 - (1) Similar to regret, it differs in that a person who feels regret focuses primarily on the personal choices that contributed to a poor outcome, while a person feeling disappointment focuses on the outcome itself.
 - (2) The study of disappointment is a focus in the field of decision analysis, as disappointment is, along with regret, one of two primary emotions involved in decision-making.
 - b. Disappointment when we choose to trust God and the outcome of our trust is not what we expect.
2. Elijah: A Disappointed Servant
 - a. 1 Kings 19:1-8
 - b. Dangers of Disappointment and the Delight of God's Response

II. The Dangers of Disappointment

A. Disappointment denies the value and wonder of previous victories

1. 1 Kings 17-19
 - a. Predicting a drought from God that God fulfills
 - b. Being divinely supplied by ravens on a daily basis at Cherith
 - c. The widow of Zarepheth
 - (1) The cruse of oil
 - (2) Her son raised from the dead
 - d. Defeat of the 850 false prophets on Mt Carmel
2. Jezebel threatens to kill him in retaliation and all the victories of the past are forgotten
 - a. Disappointment engenders fear.
 - b. **1 Kings 19:3 (ESV) *Then he was afraid, and he arose and ran for his life and came to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there.***
 - c. Fear is not faith.
 - (1) Fear forgets what God has done in the past
 - (2) Fear discounts God's love in the present
 - (3) Fear drives the disappointed away from faith.
3. **The danger of disappointment is the crippling effect of fear that drives us away from faith.**

B. Disappointment blinds us to the big picture of God's sovereign providence

1. **1 Kings 19:4 (ESV)** *But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he asked that he might die, saying, "It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my fathers."*
2. Disappointment leads us to think we are the big picture when we are in fact only a part of the big picture.
 - a. Disappointment focuses on us and what we want, what we expect, our interests and our outcomes
 - b. Disappointment blinds us to the truth that even as the redeemed children of God we are only a small part of something infinitely bigger and more glorious than us.
 - (1) It is for Christ that we live and breathe
 - (2) It is for Christ that God brought us in to the world
 - (3) It is for Christ that God saved us from the world
 - (4) It is for Christ that God sends us out into the world
 - (5) It is for Christ that He will, in His time, draws us to Christ from out of the world.
 - c. **Every moment of our lives serves the plan and purpose of God to fill the earth with the knowledge of the glory of God by exalting the Son of God among the people of God!**

C. Disappointment lies about the Person and Purpose of God

1. **1 Kings 19:4 (ESV)** *But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he asked that he might die, saying, "It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my fathers."*
2. Were it not for disappointment, Elijah would have said this differently.
 - a. Disappointment lied to Elijah
 - (1) Disappointment told Elijah that His role as the servant of God entitled Him to better outcomes than others of God's people
 - (2) Indulging disappointment Elijah failed to account for the fact that "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of the LORD."
 - (a) Remember when Isaiah stood before God in the throne room of the heavenly temple where He saw God high and lifted up and His glory filled the temple?
 - (b) Remember what Isaiah said? "Woe is me for I am a man of unclean lips and I dwell among a people of unclean lips?"
 - (c) Isaiah saw the reality that despite his position with God he was not equal with God but equal with sinners.
 - b. **The danger of disappointment is the lie that because of faith in Jesus Christ God owes us His allegiance and service according**

to our will.

III. The Delight of God's Response to Disappointment

A. **1 Kings 19:5-8 (ESV)** ⁵ *And he lay down and slept under a broom tree. And behold, an angel touched him and said to him, "Arise and eat."* ⁶ *And he looked, and behold, there was at his head a cake baked on hot stones and a jar of water. And he ate and drank and lay down again.* ⁷ *And the angel of the LORD came again a second time and touched him and said, "Arise and eat, for the journey is too great for you."* ⁸ *And he arose and ate and drank, and went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb, the mount of God.*

B. **God does not strike Elijah down but allows him to rest.**

1. Disappointment creates stress
2. Stress has a debilitating effect on our physical well-being.
3. Sometimes, when we are disappointed, it is best to stop all the effort and take a nap
 - a. Give your body a chance to recuperate.
 - b. Give your mind and spirit a chance to rest

C. **God does not berate Elijah but sends a messenger to encourage him**

1. Elijah is awakened by an angel
 - a. The word "touched" is not a gentle caress but a meaningful contact
 - b. This awakening from disappointment is not to another task but to physical and spiritual sustenance by the hand of God.
2. This is God being God: Jehovah-Jireh

D. **God remains present even when Elijah runs.**

1. God does not abandon Elijah under the broom tree even when it seems like disappointment has driven Elijah to abandon God.
2. God shows up, he remains faithful, even when we face the darkest moments of our lives

IV. The Delight of God's Response to Our Disappointment

A. **2 Corinthians 1:3-5 (ESV)** ³ *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort,* ⁴ *who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.* ⁵ *For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too.*

1. We are comforted by God
2. We are comforted by His love and presence in all our afflictions
3. We are comforted for purpose
4. Our suffering is a sharing with Christ, so our is a sharing with Christ as well: God treats us with the same sustaining love and grace as His only begotten Son!

B. **We access the grace of God through Jesus Christ and His death on the cross in our place on our behalf.**

1. Jesus gave himself to greatest risk of disappointment out of firm confidence in His Father
2. So let us leave the realm of disappointment and delight in the comfort of God in Christ.