



a thin silence

In the last study, we talked about how God is present in the mundane, ordinary, and messiness of life. He is with us in our external circumstances, as well as our internal circumstances – those inner thoughts, feelings, and struggles that each of us carries. He is with each of us in a deeply personal way. Developing the ability to hear God’s quiet voice can sometimes be frustrating because it’s a continued practice. There is no way to measure success in this area because it looks different for every person. It’s often found in remembering the ways He has provided for you, recalling the prayers He has answered and reflecting with thankfulness for the times you have seen Him work in you and those around you.

I think it is really easy to see the Lord in the things that are right in front of me. However, I have found that it’s in my personal time with Him that He speaks to my heart the loudest. But it is not easy to carve out intentional time, to quiet my heart, and put myself in a place to hear His whisper. The Hebrew word for whisper used in 1 Kings 19:12 is most accurately translated as a “thin silence”. The time you spend alone with God is not time wasted. Like Elijah, you have just come off a pretty intense time of ministry and may feel lonely, tired, abandoned, or even depressed. You may not know it but you need to create quiet in your life. The time and effort you put into it will steadily increase your ability to recognize His presence.

read

1 Kings 19:1-14

reflect & journal

1. What do you observe about how the Lord interacts with Elijah in this passage?
2. If you look back at verses 9-11, the words he says are similar, but his posture towards the Lord is different. What is Elijah’s response to the more quiet interaction with the Lord? From verses 9-11, what differences do you notice about his posture? What posture do you often take before the Lord?
3. Elijah expects to see God in the big and powerful demonstrations of creation (wind, earthquake, fire). How did God’s actual interaction with Elijah burst his expectations, and what did Elijah learn about God?
4. Is it easier or more difficult for you to see the Lord in the bigger things? Is it easier or more difficult for you to see Him in the thin silence? Explain both.
5. Are you only looking for God in the big ways His presence shows up? If so, how can you be more mindful and intentional with also listening to His voice (the thin silence, as noted in ESV)?

pray

- Pray for the discipline to carve out intentional time to spend with Jesus.
- Pray for a sacred space (place, location, environment, atmosphere, etc.).
- Pray for His voice to be loud and clear (HA...get it).