

2023 Theme: Let Us Arise and Build



Walking Down the Path, Together



Three Examples to Notice

A photograph of a person standing on a grassy hill at sunset or sunrise. The person is silhouetted against the bright, hazy sky. In the distance, another person is visible walking away. The foreground is dark and textured with grass.

Elijah in 1 Kings 19

1 Kings 19:9-16

⁹ Then he came there to a cave and lodged there; and behold, the word of the LORD *came* to him, and He said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

**All verses from 1995 New American Standard*

1 Kings 19:9-16

¹⁰ He said, “I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the sons of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars and killed Your prophets with the sword. And I alone am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.”

1 Kings 19:9-16

¹¹ So He said, “Go forth and stand on the mountain before the LORD.” And behold, the LORD was passing by! And a great and strong wind was rending the mountains and breaking in pieces the rocks before the LORD; *but* the LORD *was* not in the wind.

1 Kings 19:9-16

And after the wind an earthquake, *but* the LORD *was* not in the earthquake.

¹² After the earthquake a fire, *but* the LORD *was* not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of a gentle blowing.

1 Kings 19:9-16

¹³ When Elijah heard *it*, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. And behold, a voice *came* to him and said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

1 Kings 19:9-16

¹⁴ Then he said, “I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the sons of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars and killed Your prophets with the sword. And I alone am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.”

1 Kings 19:9-16

¹⁵ The LORD said to him, “Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus, and when you have arrived, you shall anoint Hazael king over Aram;

¹⁶ and Jehu the son of Nimshi you shall anoint king over Israel; and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah you shall anoint as prophet in your place.

1 Kings 19:18-19

¹⁸ Yet I will leave 7,000 in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal and every mouth that has not kissed him.”

¹⁹ So he departed from there and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, while he was plowing with twelve pairs *of oxen* before him, and he with the twelfth. And Elijah passed over to him and threw his mantle on him.

Three Examples to Notice

A photograph of a person standing on a grassy hill at sunset or sunrise. The person is silhouetted against the bright, hazy sky. In the distance, another person is walking away. The foreground is dark and textured with grass.

David in 2 Samuel 12

2 Samuel 11:27

²⁷ ...But the thing that David had done was evil in the sight of the LORD.

2 Samuel 12:1

¹ Then the LORD sent Nathan to David.

...

Three Examples to Notice

A photograph of a grassy hill at sunset. The sky is a warm, hazy orange. In the foreground, a person stands in silhouette on the left side of the hill. In the middle ground, another person is walking away from the viewer towards a line of trees. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

Saul in Acts 9

Acts 9:10-18

¹⁰ Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and the Lord said to him in a vision, “Ananias.” And he said, “Here I am, Lord.”

Acts 9:10-18

¹¹ And the Lord *said* to him, “Get up and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying,

¹² and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him, so that he might regain his sight.”

Acts 9:10-18

¹³ But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he did to Your saints at Jerusalem;

¹⁴ and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name.”

Acts 9:10-18

¹⁵ But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel;

¹⁶ for I will show him how much he must suffer for My name’s sake.”

Acts 9:10-18

¹⁷ So Ananias departed and entered the house, and after laying his hands on him said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road by which you were coming, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”

Acts 9:10-18

¹⁸ And immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he regained his sight, and he got up and was baptized;

What Might We Learn From That?

- God doesn't want us trying to follow Him alone. Yet sometimes we try!



Matthew 7:13-14

¹³ “Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it.

¹⁴ For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.

What Might We Learn From That?

- God intended for us to have a “team” alongside us as we try to follow Him.



Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

⁹ Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor.

¹⁰ For if either of them falls, the one will lift up his companion. But woe to the one who falls when there is not another to lift him up.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

¹¹ Furthermore, if two lie down together they keep warm, but how can one be warm *alone*?

¹² And if one can overpower him who is alone, two can resist him. A cord of three *strands* is not quickly torn apart.

Four Passages With Great Fellowship Goals



Galatians 6:2

² Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.

1 Thessalonians 5:11

11 Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.

Romans 12:10-15

¹⁰ *Be* devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor;

Romans 12:10-15

¹³ contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.

Romans 12:10-15

¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.

John 13:34-35

³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

³⁵ By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Final Thought

Our faith grows best when we are surrounded by others traveling in the same direction, toward God.

