

Pastor Roy's sermon from August 10, 2014

Think of a time when you needed help. What did you do? Did you seek help? From a parent, teacher, coach, mentor, a friend? Or did you stop and think and figure out on your own a good plan to deal with your problem?

Elijah runs away. God goes and finds him. What are you doing here, Elijah? Gloom and Doom, Despair and Agony, blah, blah. The world is coming to an end God, and I'm the only one left, and I'm tired of it all.

God's response? Come out of your cave and talk to me. Wind, earthquake, fire. Then nothing. And God is in the nothing. Nothing is boring. Wind, earthquake, fire—that's exciting. We want a God of action. Not as much a God of silence. We want answers, not silence. We want a quick assurance, not silence. Usually. Right?

God's final response is, Go anoint these three rulers and prophets, and don't worry about the future. It will be fine. There are plenty of decent kings and prophets who will take care of what needs to be said and done. It doesn't all depend on you or what you think. I'll take care of the rest.

Elijah is humbled. Rightly so. A courageous prophet, but only part of God's reign. Plenty more prophets where he came from.

Peter and the disciples terrified in the storm. Is God the storm? Or does God come walking in the storm saying "Fear not!"? Peter becomes curious. Imagine that, in a life threatening storm. Peter is curious. Prove yourself, Jesus. Put me on the water too!

"Come." He becomes afraid. "Lord! Save!" Jesus grabs him.

Elijah and Peter. Don't be afraid, Trust!

And Paul, "If you confess with you lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." Don't be afraid. He says, "The same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

What does it mean that Jesus is Lord? To believe that the way of Jesus is the Way of Life? Power in love and mercy? And to believe in the Resurrection which Jesus demonstrated after he let go of his life for his friends?

Silence when silence is needed. Crying out for help by faith when that is needed. Trusting in the way of peace and life more than our natural fear of death and failure and limitations. Trusting that Jesus is Lord and his Life will be plenty good for us along the way and in the end.

With what do you need to trust rather than fear? How must you call out for help? Who or what is your Lord? In what, in whom have you placed your faith? What does it mean for you to trust in the life-giving, Spirit given power of resurrection all around you? From what do you need to be saved, right now? What is your wind, earthquake, and fire, or storm at sea? How is God saving you? How is Jesus your Lord?

How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news! Good news of life-giving silence. Of mercy. Of faithfulness. Of work to do. Of friendship. Of letting ourselves fall into the mercy of God who will not drop us or let us go. No matter what. Thanks be to God. Amen.