

St. Matthew AME Church
Bible Study
Monday, February 8, 2010

Desperation

- I. Desperation – when our actions and behavior are the result of despair and hopelessness, a sense of urgency. When we are at our last resort
 - A. Result or consequence of two contrasting circumstances or situations. We are on top, victor, conqueror; something came out well for us.
 - B. Something occurred that seemingly nullified our triumph, made our victory seem ancient and threatens us either spiritually, emotionally, physically, financially, etc....

- II. I Kings 18 and 1 Kings 19
 - A. Elijah on Mt. Carmel
 - 1. King Ahab and 850 prophets of Baal and Asherah (male and female god)
 - 2. Mt. Carmel was regarded as the sacred dwelling place of Baal
 - 3. “how long halt you between two opinions” (18:21) People were torn between two gods, contest was to see which god was real, and the people would serve that god, either Baal or Jehovah
 - 4. Jehovah proves Himself and sends down fire, Elijah is vindicated
 - 5. 850 prophets of Baal executed
 - B. Ahab reports to Jezebel what happened on Mt. Carmel
 - 1. Jezebel threatens Elijah
 - 2. Elijah’s reaction- desperation
 - 3. Why did Elijah become desperate – “and when he saw that” (19:3) – what causes us to become desperate- when we have made plans, set goals and nothing changes, everything remains the same- it affects us spiritually, emotionally, physically, financially, etc.....
 - 4. Jezebel represented the status quo, the way things are
 - C. Desperation is demonic
 - 1. Brings out the worse in us, the person we don’t want to be
 - 2. We do anything we feel we have to get out of situation- unrighteous, immoral, sinful- play into hands of Satan
 - 3. We become desperate because we doubt God’s ability or willingness to rescue us or make a difference (“and when he saw that”- nothing changed)
 - 4. Behavior- irrational, erratic- Elijah runs for his life, prays to die, lives in cave
 - 5. What we do- run from threat, responsibilities, hide, lie, cheat, etc., suicide.....

- III. God speaks to Elijah and He speaks to us
 - A. What are you doing here?
 - 1. God had not sent him to the cave as He had other places
 - 2. Desperate we make irrational decisions – Elijah said he wanted to die, but he really didn’t – we say and do things we really don’t mean or intend
 - B. God wants to speak to us in a quiet way – whisper to us
 - 1. Misunderstanding of how God speaks to and reveals Himself to us
 - 2. Is not angry with Elijah or us

3. Still small voice- wind, earthquake, fire- Elijah talked to God requesting to die, now God talked to Elijah
- C. God reminds us where our help comes from
1. Elijah became desperate and ran because of doubt – enemy wants to get us to doubt
 2. God reminds us that He has helped us before and He will help us again
 3. Need not be afraid but be faithful- trust God – Psalm 121 is a reminder that God is our help