

My Life In 2012 - Find God

1-7-12

I. Introduction

A. Find God / Find Others / Find Yourself

B. The prophet Elijah's situation

1 Kings 19:4

But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree; and he requested for himself that he might die.

1 Kings 19:11-12

...and a mighty windstorm hit the mountain. It was such a terrible blast that the rocks were torn loose...

but the LORD was not in the wind.

After the wind there was an earthquake...

but the LORD was not in the earthquake.

12 And after the earthquake there was a fire...

but the LORD was not in the fire.

C. Elijah was expecting to find God in the magnificent

1. 450 prophets of Baal

1 Kings 18:26-27

Then they called on the name of Baal from morning till noon. "O Baal, answer us!" they shouted. But there was no response; no one answered. And they danced around the altar they had made. 27 At noon Elijah began to taunt them. "Shout louder!" he said. "Surely he is a god! Perhaps he is deep in thought, or busy, or traveling. Maybe he is sleeping and must be awakened."

1 Kings 18:37-39

Answer me, O LORD, answer me, so these people will know that you, O LORD, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again." 38 Then the fire of the LORD fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench. 39 When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried, "The LORD—he is God! The LORD—he is God!"

D. Look at verse **1 Kings 19:12 NLT**

And after the earthquake there was a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire there was the sound of a gentle whisper.

E. God is closer than you think?"

a. He is all around us.

b. Always reaching out to us.

c. But maybe we're looking to find Him in what we consider the magnificent, and we miss Him in what we consider the ordinary?

II. The Creation of Adam (painting)

A. God's desire to be with His creation

B. Adam's reserve

C. The "everywhereness" of God

"ordinary things like cooking and small talk, through storytelling, making love, fishing, tending animals and sweet corn and flowers, through sports, music, and books, raising kids — all the places where the gravy soaks in and grace shines through."

Garrison Keillor

D. Jacob's Dream

Genesis 28:16-17

Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it." 17 How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

1. God was present, closer than Jacob thought, and it was completely missed.

III. God Is Near

A. Where's Waldo?

1. Jacob's story
2. Samuels's story
3. Jerusalem's story
4. Could it be our story today?

B. Primary promise of the Bible – "I will be with you".

1. Dallas Willard - the central theme in the Bible could be called the Emmanuel Principle.
2. Jesus enters the world as Emmanuel – God with us.
 - a. Leaves this world by saying, "I am with you always".
3. the fulfillment of human existence will be described with these words.

Revelation 21:3-4

And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain;

C. Spiritual habituation

1. William Barry writes, "whether we are aware of it or not, at every moment of our existence we are encountering God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who is trying to catch our attention, trying to draw us into a reciprocal conscious relationship."

D. Choices

Psalm 16:8

I have set the LORD continually before me...

IV. Conclusion